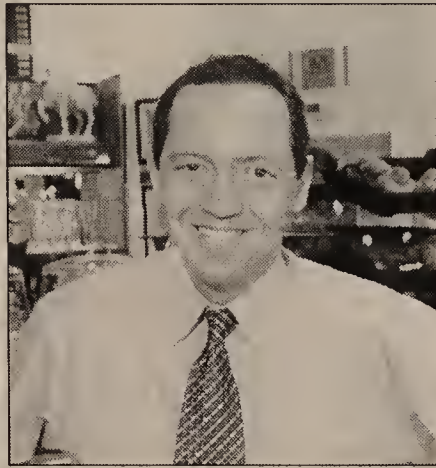


## KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES!

Who are these people? That's what we wanted to know. To find out, the *Voice* asked the three candidates for District 8 supervisor in the Nov. 7 election to take a quiz on issues important to Noe Valley. Their completely unexpurgated answers are on pages 13 and 15.



Volume XXX, No. 9

November 2006



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## What Kind of Urban Village Should 24th Street Be?

Noe Valley Association Says Dream, Dream, Dream

By Corrie M. Anders

Downtown Noe Valley is starting to look downright spiffy. Dozens of trees have been planted along 24th Street, the sidewalks are getting cleaned regularly, and flower arrangements are cropping up in the least expected places.

The makeover, carried out over the past six months or so, is the work of the new Noe Valley Association (NVA). But it is only the beginning.

The association last month announced plans to explore how the commercial corridor should look in the coming decades—and has invited the public to help in the brainstorming. The organization will hold two community forums in November and December that will consider three long-range alternatives for the business strip.

"If a Noe Valleyan can dream, here are three dreams," says NVA executive director Debra Niemann. "This is an important and historical opportunity for citizens of Noe Valley to help create the future of 24th Street."



Cafe owner Joe Eadeh may eventually see flowers in planters all along 24th Street. But for now, the NVA, the local community benefit district, is placing plants in the tops of a few select trash bins, to see how they grow. The organization is also holding a series of forums on the future look and layout of Noe Valley's main drag. Photo by Pamela Gerard

She says the idea is to design a family-friendly neighborhood with a distinctive commercial identity, and one that is accessible to the entire community. And everything from the feasibility of diagonal parking on 24th Street to turning Noe and Sanchez streets into one-way roads will be open for discussion.

"We're calling [the proposal] 'Noe Valley's 24th Street: An Urban Village Plan,'" says Niemann.

Both the Nov. 16 and Dec. 12 meetings will start at 7:30 p.m. at St. Philip's Parish Hall at 725 Diamond Street. And anyone who is interested is invited to attend.

To help spur ideas for the new village, the association has retained Urban Ecology, an urban design firm with 30 years' experience in public spaces and transportation.

"What we are doing is really looking at three different visions of how 24th Street should develop over the next 15 to 20 years," says Donald Neuwirth, executive director of Urban Ecology and a longtime resident of Elizabeth Street.

The public's input from the November session will be the basis for a "preferred

## LOCAL GEMS

### Baked to Perfection

Noe Valley Bakery and Bread Company All Puffed Up

By Kate Volkman

It's 8 o'clock on a Monday morning, and the bakers at the Noe Valley Bakery and Bread Company have been at work since 4 a.m.

Proprietor Michael Gassen and his assistants have already made the dough for sweet and sour baguettes, five different kinds of sandwiches on freshly baked bread, mounds of cream fillings and icings, and tray after tray of cookies, cupcakes, and breakfast pastries. Now Gassen is firing up the French deck ovens to bake the baguettes.

Gassen, 43, knows that the bakery at 4073 24th Street near Castro Street has become a staple for customers in Noe Valley. Six hundred people walk through its doors on a typical day, and more than 1,300 cross the threshold on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Ten-year Noe Valley resident Gus Andres says the *Voice* need look no further to find a local gem:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

## Bob Johnson—The TAMALE in Our Midst

By Lorraine Sanders

When Bob Johnson moved into the neighborhood, there were streetcars running down 24th Street and Playland-at-the-Beach was the place to go on a sunny day off. KRON-TV had just begun broadcasting, Elmer Robinson held court in the mayor's office, and Alcatraz still housed real inmates.

"I would drive around here, and I just loved this neighborhood. Then it was more of a working-class neighborhood. It was more blue-collar," Johnson remembers.

The year was 1949, and Johnson had just completed an apartment building at the corner of Sanchez and Liberty streets in his favorite San Francisco neighborhood. He bought the lot in 1946 for \$4,000 and spent another \$40,000 constructing the three-unit building. Johnson, 96, still lives there today.

"It's my spot," he says contentedly. He loves the area so much that instead of leaving his idyllic outpost to travel around the country, he encourages his relatives to come visit him. Though he never married or had children, Johnson counts his many nieces and nephews as his own.

You might have seen this car enthusiast zipping around Noe Valley in his impeccably clean, red-as-candy Mercedes SLK 320 convertible (yes, he still drives).



Bob Johnson enjoys driving to Ocean Beach in his fire-engine-red Mercedes SLK 320. He also likes hanging out with the morning regulars at Herb's on 24th Street. Photo by Pamela Gerard

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



## Family Christmas Concert with the Marcus Shelby Jazz Trio

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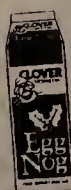
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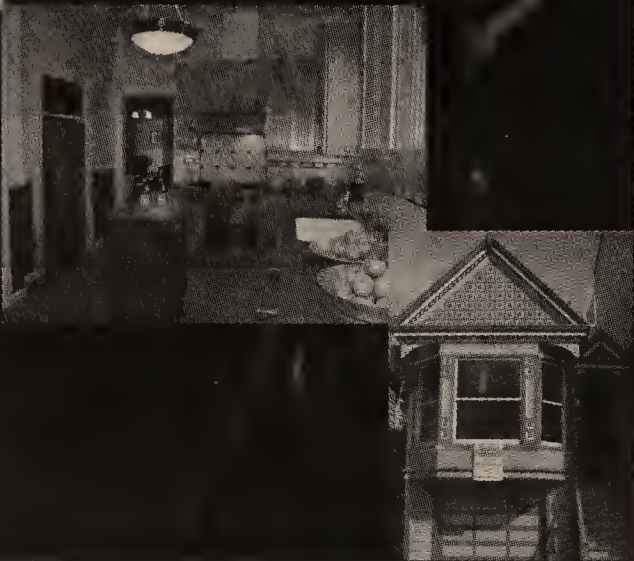


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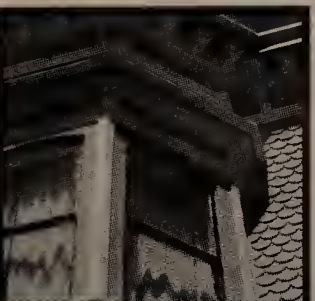
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# Ready for Thanksgiving?

We are ready for you! We're your local neighborhood source for all your Thanksgiving cooking, entertaining, & gift giving needs. If you haven't stopped by in a while, check us out -- we've received hundreds of new items in the past month. To help you plan your Thanksgiving meal we offer you these checklists highlighting some of the more popular items we carry. We've got what you need -- *why go downtown?*

## **Turkey & Soup**

- ☐ Roasting pans
- ☐ Kitchen twine
- ☐ Turkey lacers
- ☐ Oven thermometer
- ☐ Meat thermometer
- ☐ Fridge thermometer
- ☐ Cheesecloth
- ☐ Stuffing bag
- ☐ Carving knife
- ☐ Electric carving knife
- ☐ Fat separator
- ☐ Baster
- ☐ Turkey lifters
- ☐ Carving board
- ☐ Poultry shears & kitchen shears
- ☐ Turkey frills
- ☐ Basting brush
- ☐ Flavor injector
- ☐ Roasting rack
- ☐ Timers
- ☐ Stock pot
- ☐ Ladle
- ☐ Spice bag
- ☐ Immersion blender
- ☐ Stand blender
- ☐ Cutting board
- ☐ Wooden spoons

## **Knives & Chopping**

- ☐ Knives by Wüsthof, Messermeister, Shun, Henckels, Global, Sabatier Carbon Steel, & Kyocera Ceramic
- ☐ Knife sharpener (stone, manual, electric)
- ☐ Cutting boards (maple, bamboo, plastic, Epicurean, Architec)
- ☐ Cuisinart food processor (14 & 11 cup, mini)

## **More Cookin'**

- ☐ Asparagus steamer pots
- ☐ Le Creuset & Lodge Dutch Ovens
- ☐ All-Clad, Le Creuset, Swiss Diamond & Lodge skillets
- ☐ All-Clad pots & pans
- ☐ All-Clad, Lodge & Le Creuset Grill Pans
- ☐ The Chestnutter
- ☐ Splatter screen
- ☐ Universal lid
- ☐ Colander
- ☐ Seafood tools
- ☐ Egg slicer
- ☐ Salad spinner
- ☐ Pepper & salt mills
- ☐ Potato masher & ricer
- ☐ Food mill
- ☐ Garlic press
- ☐ Mandoline (Oxo!)
- ☐ Peelers (many types)
- ☐ Graters (Microplane!)
- ☐ Pillivuyt & Emile Henry baking dishes
- ☐ Salts & peppers
- ☐ Spices
- ☐ Olive oils (Stonehouse!)
- ☐ Vinegars (Round Pond!)
- ☐ Mortars and Pestles

## **Wine, Cheese & Bar**

- ☐ Wine glasses & decanters by Riedel & Spiegelau
- ☐ "O" wine glasses
- ☐ Slate cheese trays
- ☐ Bamboo serving boards
- ☐ Wine openers (Rabbit!)
- ☐ Cocktail shaker
- ☐ French leaves
- ☐ Lace doilies
- ☐ Lemon squeezer

## **Pies, Cakes & Desserts**

- ☐ Pie dishes (Emile Henry!)
- ☐ Silpat, Roulpat
- ☐ Parchment paper & rounds
- ☐ Round, square & rectangular cake pans
- ☐ Bundt pans (NordicWare!)
- ☐ Silicone bakeware
- ☐ Cupcake pans & papers
- ☐ Decorating bags & tips
- ☐ Icing spatulas
- ☐ Food coloring
- ☐ Colored sugars & sprinkles
- ☐ Springform & loaf pans
- ☐ Flour sifter
- ☐ Rolling pins
- ☐ Pastry blender
- ☐ Tart dishes & ramekins
- ☐ Food scales (6 types!)
- ☐ Mixing bowls
- ☐ Spatulas & Whisks
- ☐ Cookie Sheets (Vollrath!)
- ☐ Vanilla Queen vanillas
- ☐ Baking chocolate (Schokinag, Valrhona, & Scharffen-Berger)
- ☐ Cocoa powder
- ☐ Cake stands
- ☐ Candy thermometers
- ☐ Timers
- ☐ Cooling racks
- ☐ Cardboard cake rounds
- ☐ Cookie cutters (hundreds!)
- ☐ Measuring cups & spoons
- ☐ Muscovado, Demerara sugar
- ☐ KitchenAid & Viking Mixers
- ☐ Hand Mixers
- ☐ Apple corers & slicers
- ☐ Pie servers
- ☐ Popover pans
- ☐ Gift packaging for baked goods & candies
- ☐ Chocolate molds

## **Tea, Coffee & Espresso**

- ☐ Capresso espresso machine
- ☐ Cuisinart coffee maker
- ☐ Electric kettle
- ☐ Burr coffee grinder
- ☐ Mighty Leaf & Numi tea
- ☐ Honeys
- ☐ Sugar cubes
- ☐ Illy coffee
- ☐ French press
- ☐ Stovetop espresso maker
- ☐ Tea accessories
- ☐ Tea kettles by Simplex, Le Creuset, Oxo & others
- ☐ Teapots by Bee House, Bauer, Pillivuyt

## **Breakfast**

- ☐ Griddles
- ☐ Egg & pancake shapes
- ☐ Egg cups & poachers
- ☐ Jams & jellies
- ☐ Waffle Irons
- ☐ Krups toasters
- ☐ Citrus juicers
- ☐ Grapefruit spoons
- ☐ Omelet pans
- ☐ Hot Cocoa mix

## **Linens**

- ☐ Aprons (Kids' too!)
- ☐ Napkins
- ☐ Tablecloths
- ☐ Placemats
- ☐ Dish & hand towels
- ☐ Pot holders & mitts

## **Sweets**

- ☐ Cocoa Nuts
- ☐ Chocolates by Knipschildt, B.T. McElrath, Chocolat Moderne, & Charles Chocolates
- ☐ Dagoba & Chocolive bars

**Cookbooks:** We have hundreds of cookbooks -- between us and our neighbors at Cover To Cover, you're sure to find a cookbook you like. And for you Tartine fans -- their first cookbook is out!

**Knife Sharpening:** Drop off any Sun. by 7pm, they'll be ready Tues. at 11am. SPECIAL EVENT: On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, November 18th, from 10am-2pm get your knives sharpened while you wait!

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- Guest bedroom with ensuite bath
- Kitchen has a breakfast bar and a dining area
- Large living room with fireplace

### Unit 2 – \$788,000

- Approx. 945 sq. ft. with 2 bedrooms
- Master suite has a spa tub / shower, and leads to a deck
- 2nd bedroom and a separate bathroom
- Living room with fireplace
- Kitchen comes with an adjoining dining area

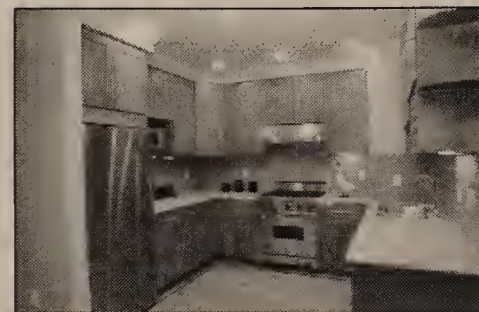
### Unit 3 – \$688,000

- Approx. 805 sq. ft. with 2 bedrooms
- Master suite has spa tub and a separate shower
- 2nd bedroom and a separate bathroom
- Kitchen with breakfast bar
- Large living room with fireplace leads to deck with great views

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# Noe Valley Democratic Club



November 7<sup>th</sup> Election Endorsements

## ----- State Candidates & Propositions -----



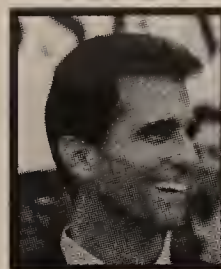
Governor  
**Phil Angelides**



Lt. Governor  
**John Garamendi**



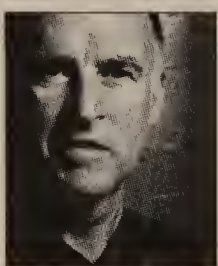
Secretary of State  
**Debra Bowen**



State Assembly District 13  
**Mark Leno**



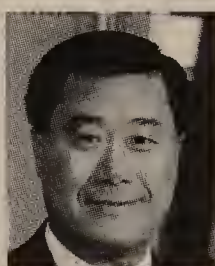
Treasurer  
**Bill Lockyer**



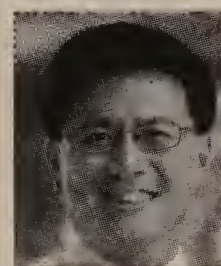
Attorney General  
**Jerry Brown**



Insurance Commissioner  
**Cruz Bustamante**



State Senate District 8  
**Leland Yee**



Controller  
**John Chiang**

- 1A – YES** — Rebuild California Plan: Transportation Investment Fund
- 1B – YES** — Rebuild California Plan: Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, Port Security Bond Act
- 1C – YES** — Rebuild California Plan: Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act
- 1D – YES** — Rebuild California Plan: Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act
- 1E – YES** — Rebuild California Plan: Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act
- 83 – NO** — Sex Offenders, Sexually Violent Predators. Punishment, Residence Restrictions and Monitoring
- 84 – YES** — Water Quality, Flood Control, Natural Resource Protection, Park Improvements
- 85 – NO** — Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy
- 86 – YES** — Tax on Cigarettes for Hospital, Emergency Services, Tobacco Education
- 87 – YES** — Tax on California Oil Producers. Alternative Energy Research, Production Incentives
- 88 – NO** — Education Funding. Real Estate Parcel Tax
- 89 – YES** — Political Campaigns. Public Financing. Corporate Tax Increase. Contribution & Expenditure Limits
- 90 – NO** — Government Acquisition. Regulation of Private Property

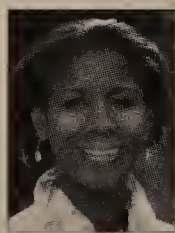
## ----- San Francisco Candidates & Propositions -----



Assessor-Recorder  
**Phil Ting**



Public Defender  
**Jeff Adachi**



Board of Education  
**Kim-Shree Maufas**



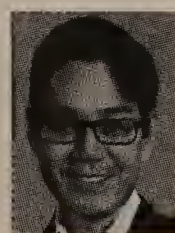
Board of Education  
**Hydra Mendoza**



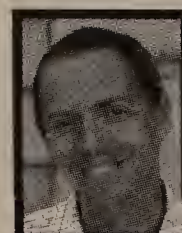
Community  
College Board  
**Johnnie Carter**



Community  
College Board  
**Anita Grier**



Community  
College Board  
**Lawrence Wong**



District 8 Supervisor  
**Bevan Dufty**

- A – YES** — School General Obligation Bonds
- B – YES** — Allowing Teleconferencing Due to Pregnancy and Related Conditions. Parental Leave
- C – YES** — Setting Salaries of Certain Elected Officials
- D – YES** — Privacy Protection
- E – YES** — Parking Tax Surcharge
- F – YES** — Paid Sick Days
- G –** — Limitations on Retail Stores – **NO ENDORSEMENT**
- H – YES** — Relocation Benefits - No Fault Evictions
- I – NO** — Monthly Board of Supervisors Appearances by the Mayor
- J – YES** — Policy Calling for Impeachment of Bush/Cheney
- K – YES** — Housing for Seniors and People with Disabilities

The Noe Valley Democratic Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month, 7:30pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street

[WWW.NOEVALLEYDEMS.COM](http://WWW.NOEVALLEYDEMS.COM)



# LETTERS 39¢

## Fitness Walk a Breeze

Editor:

On Thursday, Oct. 12, 190 students from St. Philip School, 15 teachers and staff, and many of our parents traveled through Noe Valley on a "Walk for Fitness." This is our second year, and everyone really enjoyed the day. We want to thank anyone who was in our "path," both pedestrians and drivers, who were kind enough to let our large group pass by.

Patrizia Guiotto  
Principal, St. Philip School

## Desolation Row

Editor:

I live on 29th Street just above Castro, and every day I have to pass a construction site at Castro and 29th that sits in a prime state of destruction without a soul working. The grounds of the site are a mess, the building has a huge gaping hole, and all in all, it looks like a war zone. The project obviously got red-tagged six months ago, the site was closed down, and not a thing has happened since.

After I called a phone number posted at the site, a crew came and took away a dumpster that was blocking views of oncoming traffic and taking up parking spaces. But besides that, there has not been a peep there for months. With all the other construction up the hill at Castro and Valley, this just breaks the camel's back. Can the city really let something so derelict just sit there month after month?

Josie Iselin  
29th Street

*Editor's Note: One way to find out is to call the Department of Building Inspection at 558-6096. You can also investigate a San Fran-*

*cisco project by going to the city's web site: www.sfgov.org. Find the DBI and click on "Track Building Permits and Complaints Online." By entering a project's address, lot number, permit number, or applicant's name (or by zooming in on the site on a map), you can check on the status of its permits, inspections, and complaints. If all else fails, you can visit the DBI at 1660 Mission Street. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

## Bottles Go on Top of Trash Cans

Editor:

The cute plantings on top of the dust bins on 24th Street are misplaced. The containers where they are placed are supposed to be used for depositing recyclable materials such as bottles. This would also keep the scavengers from having to scrounge through the larger containers to fill their shopping carts, creating a mess in the process.

A further complication is that the plants will inevitably die as people will forget to water them. The energy would be better placed planting more street trees.

James Keefer  
Guerrero Street

## Isn't "Mid-Rise" Misleading?

In your story about a new building planned for Church Street ("Fed-Up Pastor Sells Church to Condo Developer," October 2006), you wrote that the builder "wants to erect a mid-rise condominium development on the site." Do you think the "mid-rise" term is just a wee bit inciteful to the people who value the "rural" character of Noe Valley? Four stories is hardly a "mid-rise." Twenty stories is a mid-rise. Would you say 24th Street was lined with "mid-rises"?

Joe Herman  
Via e-mail

*Editor's Note: The Appraisal Institute, which sets real estate industry standards, gives these definitions related to building height:*

Apartment types are also based on height and density. For example, high-rise apartments have six or more stories, elevators, and dense lot usage. Mid-rise apartments consist of four to seven stories with limited elevator service. Low-rise apartments have three stories or less, while garden apartments refer to two- to three-story walkups, typically on sizable landscaped lots.

## Keep Mining the Local Gems

Editor:

I have lived in Noe Valley for 12 very happy years, and my wife and I are devoted readers of the *Voice*. You do an excellent job keeping us and all Noe Valley residents informed about what's going on in our unique neighborhood.

I especially enjoy your feature stories focusing on local merchants who have contributed to making Noe Valley special. Recent articles about Common Scents and Tuggey's Hardware were of much interest. I would like to suggest you do a similar article on what I think is the best barbershop by far here in Noe Valley: Barbers and Bears on 24th Street. Stephanie Smith and her father, Mike Smith, have a long history of working here in Noe Valley, something like 80 years between them. Based on the longevity of their commitment to their profession and to Noe Valley, as well as the unique father-daughter angle, I know this would make an interesting feature in the *Voice*.

Bob Caulfield  
Diamond Street

*Thank you, Bob. We think Barbers and Bears would make a great story, too. —Editor*

## James Lokken, 1933-2006



Retired ELCA Pastor James A. Lokken, a 23-year resident of Noe Valley, died Sept. 22, after two months' hospitalization for multiple myeloma. He was 73.

Jim was ordained as a Lutheran pastor in St. Paul, Minn., in 1959. He served as pastor of churches in Minnesota and South Dakota before moving to New York City in the 1960s to serve in an editorial position with the Liturgical Conference. He also worked for the American Bible Society in an editorial position.

In 1974, he became one of the founding members of the organization that is today known as Lutherans Concerned, working in advocacy and providing sanctuary for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. He moved to San Francisco in the late 1970s, where he soon became a volunteer assistant pastor at St. Francis Lutheran Church. He earned his living on the technical side of legal publishing.

A man who loved music (he named his dog after the organist E. Power Biggs), Jim will be remembered for his singing voice. He was known around the neighborhood for always being ready for a chat while walking Mr. Biggs, who preceded him in death by only a few months. His favorite joke was that "people check their e-mail and dogs check their pee-mail!" This never failed to make him chuckle, no matter how often he told it.

Jim had a generous spirit and he was known to have helped more than a few people to "get back on their feet" during difficult life transitions. He is survived by his elder brother, Stanley, Stan's grown children, and many friends at St. Francis Lutheran Church, Lutherans Concerned, and elsewhere.

*Contributed by Family and Friends*

## Mickey Mouse Ticketing

Editor:

I wonder how many people in Noe Valley have had this experience:

On Friday, Sept. 29, at 10 a.m., I parked on Jersey Street near Noe, which was posted as a no parking zone from 9 to 11 a.m., *for street-sweeping*. I could see that the sweeper already had passed: there were fresh brush marks on the street.

When I returned about an hour later, my car had been cited.

It had been my understanding that once

the sweeper had passed, there was no reason to cite parked vehicles, even though they were technically in violation. Has the DPT taken enforcement to a new level? If so, do any of these words apply? Legalistic. Mickey Mouse. Cheap shot.

Literalist readings of the code are of no benefit other than as revenue enhancers. The purpose of the code is to allow access for the sweepers, which, once effected, becomes moot.

Richard Van Kooy  
Montezuma Street

**THE NOE VALLEY VOICE**  
1021 Sanchez Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
www.noevalleyvoice.com

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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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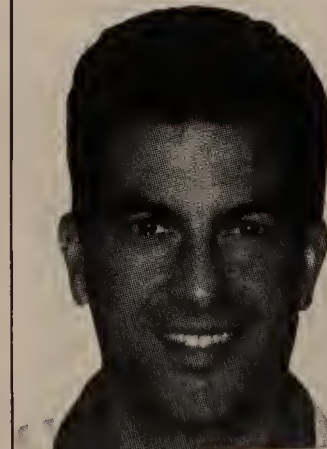
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# Re-Elect Supervisor Bevan Dufty

## Improving Noe Valley Block by Block

### Keeping the Noe Library Renovation on Track

Noe Valley's Sally Brunn Branch Library, a historic Andrew Carnegie building, requires seismic and access renovation. I have worked closely with Noe Valley community leaders to keep this project on track and fully funded. Cost increases twice threatened to stall the project or curtail its scope.

Both times I secured needed funding from the Library Commission; work on this two-year \$5.7 million construction project began in March 2006.



*"Bevan has been our Guardian Angel for the Noe Valley Library."*

-Kim Drew\*  
Co-Chair,  
Noe Valley Library  
Campaign

As with all branch library renovations, neighborhood fundraising campaigns are needed to purchase furnishings and fixtures. Now is the perfect time to make your pledge. E-mail [noevalleylibrarycampaign@yahoo.com](mailto:noevalleylibrarycampaign@yahoo.com)



*"I had some doubts about Bevan at first, but he has turned out to be a true advocate for our neighborhood."*

-Vicki Rosen\*  
President of Upper Noe Neighbors



*"Bevan has shown tremendous dedication to the needs of the Noe Valley community. Bevan listens and he gets things done."*

-Debra Niemann\*  
Former President,  
Friends of Noe Valley

### Creating the Noe Valley Community Benefits District

I established the Noe Valley Community Benefits District (CBD) in July 2005 in a team effort with Carol Yenne of 24th Street Merchants and Debra Niemann, then President of Friends of Noe Valley.

Noe Valley's commercial property owners voted to assess themselves for additional cleaning, greening and policing patrols.

Since January 2006, regular crews staffed by MJM Management pick up litter, remove graffiti, steam clean sidewalks and maintain trees. 24th Street has never looked better.

### Allowing New Restaurants on 24th Street

Over 15 years ago a zoning restriction was enacted prohibiting new restaurants on 24th Street.

Working with Friends of Noe Valley, we conducted community meetings and surveys and determined that neighbors wanted to modify the restriction. I authored a zoning amendment that allows up to 3 new restaurants on 24th street over the next 5 years.

### At Last: Renovating Upper Noe Recreation Center

Upper Noe Valley Rec Center is slated for a much needed \$6.6 million face lift starting this Fall.

It is scheduled to take 16 months. I am establishing a neighborhood committee that will work with me to monitor all phases of this project to keep it on track.

### Designing a New Children's Play Area for Noe Courts

In Winter 2005, Laura Norman, Ilene Osherow, and Eden Halbert, all residents of Noe Valley, invited me to see the poor conditions at the Noe Courts Children's/Tots Play area. The area is both unsafe and unexciting in terms of the play equipment.

Initially the prospects for re-doing the area were limited since Noe Courts was not part of Recreation and Park's 10-year capital program. However, the outpouring of neighbor interest helped me persuade Mayor Gavin Newsom to include \$175,000 in capital funds to jump-start design of a new children's play area. I secured the additional \$225,000 funds are needed so we can begin construction in early 2007 for completion next summer.

### 23rd and Castro

Despite repeated requests, DPT had rejected making this intersection a 4-way stop. I sponsored the resolution and it was installed last year. Perhaps no stop sign in District 8 has elicited the acclaim I've heard for the 4-way stop sign at 23rd and Castro.



### J-Church Screeching Tracks

Working with Vicki Rosen, President of Upper Noe Neighbors, we fixed track maintenance problems with MUNI. When the tracks are not frequently washed and lubricated, they screech. We had several field trips with MUNI managers and this helped to keep the problem under control.

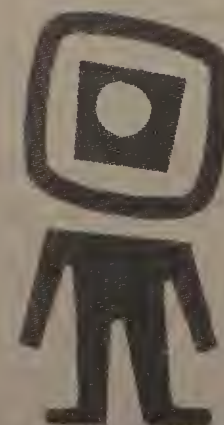
### Creating More Parking Spaces!

To offer some parking relief, I worked to establish diagonal parking on Castro between 25th and Jersey. This netted 8 new parking spaces in a bustling area of shops and restaurants. Carol Yenne was the "General" that marshaled needed support.

### Please visit [bevanduffy.com](http://bevanduffy.com) and sign-up to:

Put up a house sign (Bevan does not post signs on street poles) • Make a contribution (Bevan has a voluntary limit of \$100) • Host a house party (we will help you invite friends and neighbors and there is no requirement for fundraising, just meeting District 8 voters) • Volunteer in our HQ. We are returning to our storefront at 2344 Market Street between Castro and Noe. (We especially need help with database and computer work) • Work a Saturday or Sunday at one of our Voter Registration/Re-Elect Bevan tables • Provide a donation or loan of office equipment, computers, etc.

**To volunteer, contact Alex Randolph at 415.621.VOTE or E-mail [volunteer@bevanduffy.com](mailto:volunteer@bevanduffy.com).**



\* Organizational affiliations for identification purposes only.



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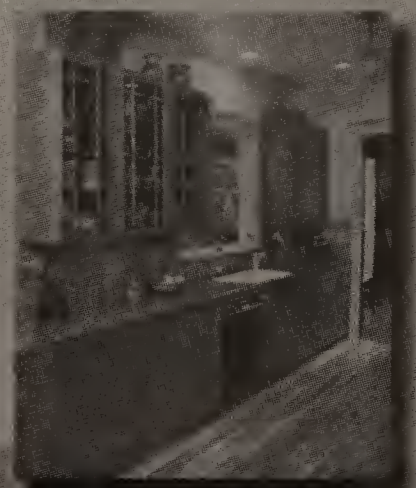
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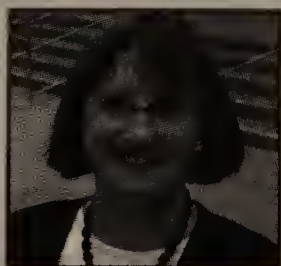


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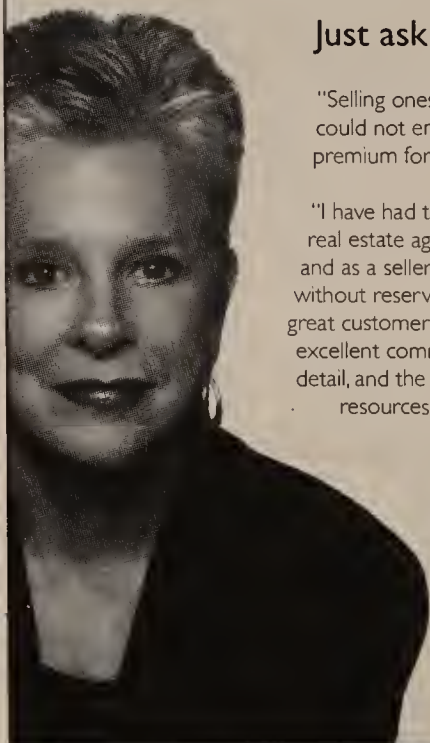
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## All 3 Candidates For Supervisor Pass The Voice Test

On Nov. 7, District 8 residents will again be asked to choose their representative on the Board of Supervisors. This time, three candidates are vying for the four-year term: incumbent Bevan Dufty, attorney Alix Rosenthal, and masseur Starchild. To spotlight their differences, the Voice sent them a 10-point quiz. Their thoughtful (and funny) answers are printed below and on page 15. Since you can vote for all three—the election uses ranked-choice voting—we hope our Q&A will help you decide who to put on the top rung.

**1. Write a short autobiographical sketch. Please include personal and career highlights.**

**2. What is the proper role of a San Francisco supervisor?**

**3. What are your top priorities if elected?**

**4. What are the main transportation issues that will challenge District 8 in the future? How will you address them?**

**5. Although home prices are not rising as quickly as they have in recent years, home ownership in San Francisco remains out of reach for most middle-income people. Now, rental prices are going up too. What actions, if any, should the city take in response to these conditions?**

**6. Noe Valley is considered one of the safest neighborhoods in the city, yet the Voice reports dozens of robberies, burglaries, and car thefts each month. What new approaches can the city adopt to reduce crime?**



BEVAN DUFTY

**Dufty:** I was raised in New York City by my mom, Maely. I had a wonderful childhood filled with jazz and civil rights activism. My godmother was Billie Holiday, and my mom managed Charlie Parker. In 1963, she worked for A. Philip Randolph as the fundraising coordinator for the March on Washington and then for the National Council of Negro Women. We moved to California in 1971 when I was 16, and I went to Cal. So my involvement in politics is hereditary.

**Dufty:** My job is both to be a district supervisor and a legislator and leader for our city. I solve individual problems and use that experience to address systemic issues within our city. I am proud of addressing neighborhood concerns and successfully shepherding projects, such as the renovation of the Noe Valley Branch Library and Upper Noe Recreation Center and the establishment of the Noe Valley Community Benefit District (e-mail city issues to [bevan.dufty@sfgov.org](mailto:bevan.dufty@sfgov.org)).

**Dufty:** I serve as the Board of Supervisors' representative on the Transit Effectiveness Project, the most major assessment of how Muni delivers service in over 25 years. I am frustrated that Muni service declined this past year and am committed to bringing back service and reliability. I am endorsed by Rescue Muni. Other priorities include improving public schools and reforming our City's approach to capital projects, which too often uses contractors that run over budgets and schedules.

**Dufty:** Transportation issues include reliability, cleanliness, accessibility, safety, and streetcar noise. As the Board's appointee to the Transportation Effectiveness Project (TEP) ([www.sftpe.com](http://www.sftpe.com)), I am working with City Controller Ed Harrington, the director of the Municipal Transportation Authority, Nathaniel Ford, and numerous public transportation stakeholders to look at Muni comprehensively for the first time in over 20 years. The TEP will address all aspects of Muni as we look to improve our transit system from the top down.

**Dufty:** I support the mayor's plan to build 15,000 new units of housing over five years (previous era there were about 1,000 new units built annually). I was vice chair of the Budget Committee this year, and we earmarked \$20 million for affordable housing for families and seniors—the largest general fund allocation ever. I supported landmark legislation that penalizes Ellis Act evictions and created a Castro charrette process for community input on in-fill housing on Market Street.

**Dufty:** Drawing on years of city government experience, I worked with District Captains John Goldberg for Noe Valley and Paul Chignell for Upper Noe for responsive community policing. Partnering with SAFE ([sfsafe.org](http://sfsafe.org)), I initiated more block watches than any other supervisor. I supported recent foot patrol legislation and am endorsed by every public safety official and group (District Attorney Kamala Harris, Sheriff Mike Hennessey, the Police Officers Association, and SFPD Pride Alliance) because of my effectiveness on public safety.



ALIX ROSENTHAL

**Rosenthal:** *Hometown:* Claremont, Calif. *College:* Northwestern University *Law School:* University of Virginia *Experience:* • Aide to Barbara Boxer 1995-96 • Associate at Thelen Reid & Priest, LLP 1999-2004—I represented tenants in eviction cases (pro bono). • President of the S.F. Elections Commission 2003-04—I made difficult choices to get the department back on track. • Deputy City Attorney for City of Oakland—I write legislation for the City Council and negotiate development deals. • President of the National Women's Political Caucus (S.F. chapter). *Personal:* I live in Ashbury Heights with partner Steve Jones, our dog Martha, and Steve's kids part-time, Breanna (16) and Cicely (12).

**Rosenthal:** A supervisor's role is to be accessible, and to solve problems in the district and citywide, by writing legislation, by calling hearings, and by constituent services. Bevan has focused on the latter—he responds to problems one at a time after they occur, rather than identifying the root causes in order to prevent them in the future. As supervisor, I will implement a vision that fixes problems hundreds at a time, for future generations.

**Rosenthal:** A housing market that shows the middle class the door; a transportation system in crisis; missed opportunities to improve the environment while saving people money, and violence prevention policies that consistently fail to protect our most vulnerable; city government is failing us. San Francisco should—and can—be more livable. My top priorities will be to protect our affordable housing, to get Muni back on track, to take bold steps in the direction of saving the environment, and to implement community policing in our neighborhoods.

**Rosenthal:** The main issues are Muni and badly-managed traffic and congestion in our neighborhoods. Muni's staggering fiscal problems resulted in a 7 percent decrease in service last year. The worse Muni gets, the more people take to their cars, compounding our traffic congestion. The following changes are necessary: lower bus floors and smartcard passes to speed up boarding, and more transit-only lanes. Revenues from the Prop. E parking tax could pay for these fixes.

**Rosenthal:** I support rent control, and I am proud to be endorsed by the S.F. Tenants Union. I will work to make sure developers in the District are building the maximum amount of inclusionary housing. I will promote first-time buyer programs such as community land trusts and limited-equity cooperatives. I pledge to place limits on the use of the Ellis Act, and make it harder for real estate speculators to profit by the displacement of tenants.

**Rosenthal:** Crime is best prevented in two ways—through community-based violence prevention programs and through community policing, including more foot and bike patrols. When the police interact directly with the neighborhood, crime decreases. I pledge to support community-based programs, such as those found in Prop. A from the June 2006 ballot. The incumbent opposed Prop. A, and he has shown no leadership on police reform, and he voted against expanding foot patrols to Noe Valley.



STARCHILD

**Starchild:** I am a dynamic figure, often seen scaling walls and crushing ice... OK, just kidding! Actually, I'm a Bay Area native who grew up in the suburbs but was irresistibly drawn to San Francisco, where I've resided since 1995. I have a journalism degree from San Francisco State University. I've worked in movie theaters, retail clothing, warehouse assembly, and (believe it or not!) the U.S. Army Reserves. Currently, I'm an escort, masseur, and exotic dancer. On my very first run for office in 2000, I was presciently called a "perennial candidate" by the *San Francisco Independent*. I'm bisexual and vegetarian.

**Starchild:** A supervisor should set a good example by throwing fun, free office parties, dressing in drag occasionally, taking the right kinds of drugs in moderation to keep things in perspective, behaving ethically, riding a bicycle, skateboard, or Segway to work, seeking to reduce his or her own salary, calling bureaucrats on their bullshit, appointing more libertarians, encouraging civil disobedience where appropriate, attending Burning Man, and above all, being a consistent voice and vote for freedom.

**Starchild:** Some of my top priorities if elected include: • Decriminalizing marijuana and ending local "Drug War" enforcement • Decriminalizing prostitution • Capping city officials' salaries at \$99,000/year • Implementing voter-mandated cost-benefit analysis of proposed legislation • Eliminating the local sales tax • Holding police officers accountable for wrongful shootings and excessive force • Upholding your right to self-defense • De-funding all government public relations spending • Protecting the rights of undocumented immigrants • Creating more bicycle lanes • Repealing leash laws, holding owners responsible for off-leash dogs • Requiring competitive bidding for all city projects with a simple, transparent process • Applying the Sunshine Ordinance to the SFPD and the School Board.

**Starchild:** Low and zero-emission cars are the future, and we should meet that future with adequate parking. Driving around looking for parking worsens traffic and causes pollution now, and parking tickets are a regressive tax. Meanwhile, support alternative transportation by improving the bicycle lane network and decriminalizing skateboarding, skating, and Segways. Another challenge will be maintaining our privacy. Cameras are now on BART, Muni, and all taxis in San Francisco. This is a dangerous, Orwellian trend.

**Starchild:** Rewrite zoning laws to let people live in underused industrial and commercially zoned areas. Allow more condo conversions. Replace wasteful "affordable" housing programs with housing vouchers given directly to low-income residents. End rent control. It's no coincidence that U.S. cities with rent control have expensive rental housing. I say this as a tenant living in a rent-controlled apartment. And cut the bureaucracy and red tape to make building new housing easier and less expensive.

**Starchild:** Where do I begin? Stop wasting police resources prosecuting people for things that shouldn't even be illegal, like marijuana and paid sex among consenting adults. Reduce the police presence at peaceful festivals and political demonstrations. Get the police out of their cars and doing more foot patrols. Deter violent crime by letting people carry handguns for self-defense, as is our Constitutional right. And require convicted criminals to apologize and to provide restitution to their victims.

# VOTE NOVEMBER 7

Continued on Page 15 ➤



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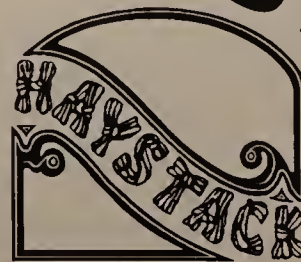
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**DISTRICT 8 SUPERVISOR Q&A**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

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**7. Many Noe Valley families leave San Francisco once their kids reach school age. How do you explain this? What, if anything, should the city do about it?**

**Dufty:** My daughter Sidney will attend public school. It is at the top of my priorities. I championed many improvements to D8 schools and co-authored Tom Ammiano's Proposition H, providing City support for programs such as music and art, physical education, and guidance counselors, which have not been available. Uncertainty around the school assignment process drives many parents to private schools. I have been active with all of my schools and am excited to make further progress.

**Rosenthal:** Families leave the city for several reasons: the price of housing, the perception that schools are better in the suburbs, and the difficulty of getting a child into a public school close to home. As our families are leaving, San Francisco loses funding, and the school district is always facing school closures. I will protect the schools in District 8 from closure, by applying the political pressure necessary, and finding funding to supplement the school district budget.

**Starchild:** Hmm, a mystery worthy of Sherlock Holmes...not! It's elementary, my dear editors (no pun intended)! Government-run schools in S.F. are mostly mediocre, and parents and students are frequently denied their school of choice. If these families can't afford to send their kids to non-government schools while still being taxed to pay for government schools, naturally many of them choose to look elsewhere. What's needed? Simply more choice, more competition, and more accountability to parents.

**8. A Utah-based corporation has left the former Real Food Company space on 24th Street vacant for over three years. Some say the shuttered store has not only hurt the former employees, but harmed the economic vitality of the entire commercial strip. How should the city deal with this situation, and chain stores in general?**

**Dufty:** Noe Valleyites know of my work throughout the Real Food saga. I held Board hearings, secured City cooperation for the Noe Valley Farmers' Market, and secured Congresswoman Pelosi's help on the employee complaint before the National Labor Relations Board. Nutraceutical has ignored everything. But I have worked with Harley DeLano on his purchase of Cala/Bell. That ensures we'll have an even better Bell Market, which cares about its employees and the neighborhood.

**Rosenthal:** Supervisor Dufty has not been able to answer why Real Foods is still empty and blighted. As a real estate attorney, I know that we can bring the owners to the table with the threat of eminent domain or a public nuisance suit. I support Prop. G—it is essential to maintain our neighborhood character and protect our small mom-and-pop shops and restaurants from the predatory anti-competitive practices of mega-stores and formula retail.

**Starchild:** Let's require chain stores to install RFID chip readers at store entrances, and require chain store opponents to get RFID chip implants. Any time such a person attempted to enter a chain store, the RFID detector's beeping would remind them of their values.... OK, I'm kidding again. But if you dislike chain stores, put your money where your mouth is—don't shop there! Chain stores prosper in San Francisco because many residents are hypocrites.

**9. Because of long delays and lack of oversight in both public and private building projects, some Noe Valley residents and merchants have grown suspicious of city government. How would you respond to their concerns?**

**Dufty:** There were several roadblocks in the Sally Brunn Branch Library renovation. I worked closely with the neighborhood and new City Librarian Luis Herrera to resolve funding shortfalls. We created a bi-monthly neighborhood advisory committee meeting with the contractor L&C Construction. We just initiated meetings with Trico Construction on Upper Noe Rec Center. This is ensuring that the neighborhood remains informed and that we deliver great projects. I am committed to reforming the City's construction process.

**Rosenthal:** The building inspection and permitting processes are a mess, and open to manipulation by permit expeditors. I would like to see a management audit of the Department of Building Inspection. I would work to limit permit expediting. As an attorney with experience in development projects, I will keep close watch over the projects in District 8 neighborhoods to make sure that they are completed as quickly and efficiently as possible.

**Starchild:** I would treat their concerns seriously, say sympathetic things, and sound knowledgeable and practical. Meanwhile, I would continue to support the kind of legislation that has spawned a bloated city government with sweeping powers to interfere in people's lives and lacking adequate transparency or accountability, resulting in building project snafus and other unintended consequences. Oh wait, never mind—that's my opponents. I'd sound less electable, but would be less a part of the problem.

**10. What has been the funniest moment during your campaign? (Question provided by Arnold Schwarzenegger)**

**Dufty:** I'm a bit sleep deprived. Rebecca [Goldfader], Sidney, and I went to surprise Our Family Coalition (LGBT families) at their event in Diamond Heights. I misplaced my schedule but recalled the house number. I rang the bell and we stumbled in—I immediately felt we were in the wrong house. Who comes downstairs but former School Board member Carlota del Portillo and two grandchildren! We laughed, and I realized the event was four houses down the block.

**Rosenthal:** Woody Miller is a nudist activist and a supporter of ours. He came by the office (fully clothed) to volunteer when we were making signs for our wall with the names of our endorsers. We put a sign up for Woody, and he asked if he could have a picture with me in front of it. In half a second, he had taken all his clothes off, and we snapped the picture.

**Starchild:** Unfortunately, I can't tell you about it. If we repeal some bad laws, hopefully that will change! But some of my favorite moments have been while wearing some scandalous outfit at a party or something, handing someone a flier when they're least expecting it and telling them I'm running for supervisor. Reactions can be priceless! Even if the person isn't in my district, at least I've made politics a little more fun for someone.

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## Take a Look at an Urban Village Plan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

alternative," says Neuwirth. That refined plan will be presented at the December forum.

### A Bus Stop at Bell?

One Urban Ecology alternative would concentrate interest around a central focal point, a village center, if you will, such as the Bell Market area. Imagine a Muni bus stop island at Bell, for example, or a middle-of-the-block crosswalk or signal lighting, along with more benches and more trees.

Passengers currently are picked up or let off at the intersections of Noe and Sanchez streets. Creating a single bus stop island in the middle of the block would allow buses to "more easily move through 24th Street," says Neuwirth. A crosswalk or signal at that location would improve safety for pedestrians, many of whom routinely jaywalk to and from the

Bell Market parking lot.

Another alternative would explore the feasibility of multiple, though smaller, village hubs. They could be located at current transit stops, such as 24th and Castro streets and 24th and Church streets. "You could put in some more street furniture and slow down the traffic and, if it merits, have a mid-block crosswalk," says Neuwirth.

The third option focuses on spreading the amenities more evenly up and down 24th Street.

### Outside Funding Required

Forum participants will be polled on sidewalk lighting and other pedestrian safety features. They'll also be asked their opinion on whether the streetscape should include such elements as neighborhood identity signs, more benches, bulletin boards, bus shelters, stylish newspaper boxes, bike racks, or time clocks.

"If we have a comprehensive plan... and an aggressive community [to advocate], some of this or all of this can be implemented," says Neuwirth.

That implementation is dependent

upon winning government funding, according to Niemann and Neuwirth.

"NVA is not going to pay for it," says Niemann. "It's going to take state, federal, and city money."

### More Trees to Be Planted

The Noe Valley Association came into existence earlier this year after local merchants voted to create a community benefit district. Merchants and property owners along the 24th Street corridor pay an annual fee to finance the association's operations.

Projects so far have included steam-cleaning the sidewalks and planting a variety of trees along 24th and other streets in the neighborhood. Niemann says 39 trees were planted in September and 12 in October, with another three dozen trees set to be planted in November.

### Trash Cans Sprout Flowers

Twenty-fourth Street also now sports live flowers, growing out of the top of trash bins at the corners of Vicksburg and Sanchez streets. The flowering plants have been placed inside the wire con-

tainers that were once designed for recyclable materials—and the setup is on a trial basis.

The plantings drew a mild complaint from James Keefer, a Guerrero Street resident who frequently does business on 24th Street. Keefer says the containers prevent scavengers from scrounging around in the trash bins and possibly creating a mess. And he fears that owners would not properly care for the plants.

"People are notoriously bad about watering their plants," says Keefer. "Inevitably, someone is not going to water them and they're going to die. I feel sorry for them."

Niemann says such worries are unfounded. The city no longer uses those particular bins for recyclable collections, she says, and the association has a contract with a firm to water plants along 24th Street. ■



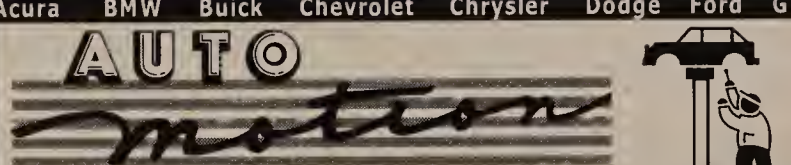
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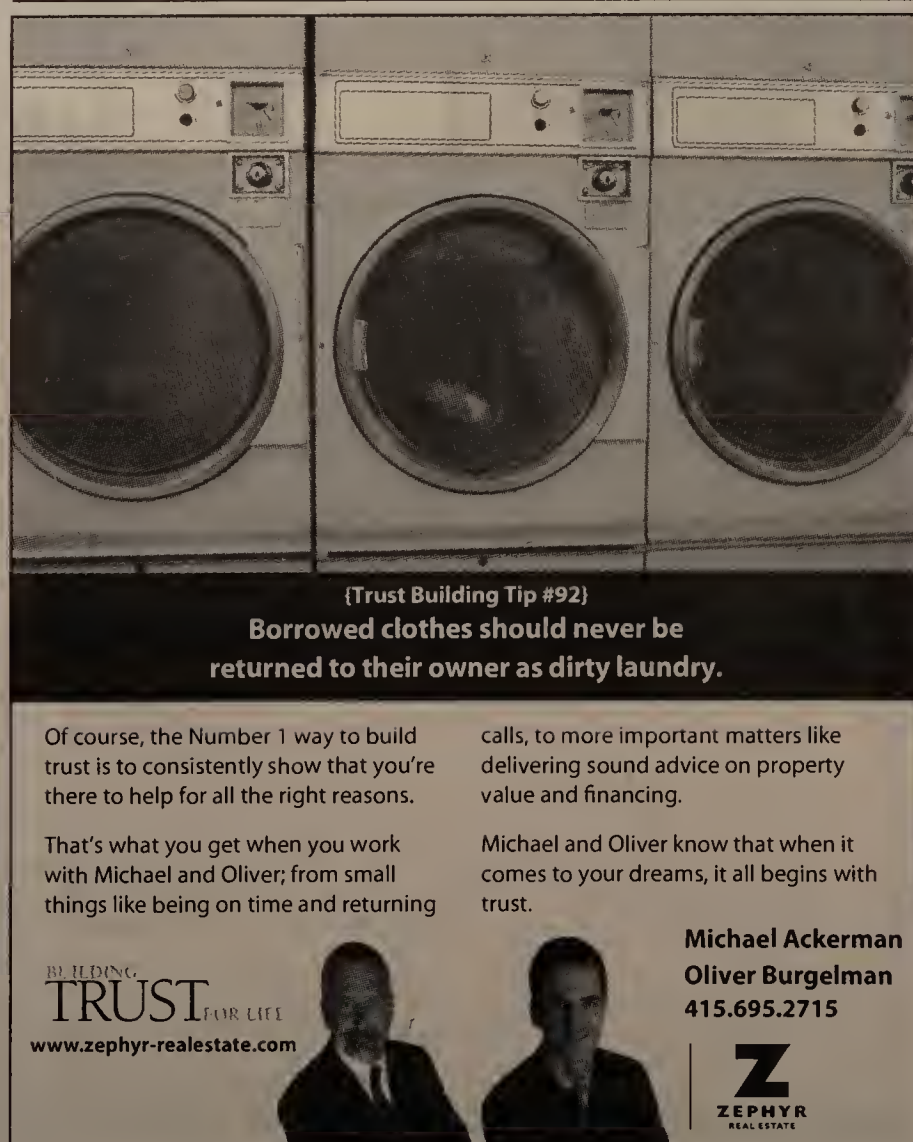


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## The TAMALE About Town

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The car sports a vanity plate that reads *TAMALE*, a word that suits Johnson in more ways than one.

Yes, Johnson was in the tamale business. His father opened the first Johnson's Tamale Grotto in Sacramento, but relocated to San Francisco in 1912, when Johnson was just 2 years old. Young Bob grew up on Capp Street, close to the family's restaurant at 20th and Mission. When his father died in a 1918 automobile accident, Johnson's mother continued to operate the tamale parlor.

After graduating from U.C. Berkeley in 1933 and doing a short stint for the city in a social services job, the younger Johnson took over the family business. He eventually opened a tamale restaurant in the Sunset and a third in the Westlake Shopping Center. The Sunset location, on the corner of Vicente and 24th Avenue, was one of the first to offer home delivery in the area.

A tangy recipe for tamale sauce was the main reason the Grotto thrived, says Johnson. "It was a recipe that we developed over trial and error. We worked on it for many years until we finally got it right!"

In 1975, Johnson sold the business and retired.

Although he no longer cooks, Johnson still harbors an affection for good food. If you rise early, you might run into him at Herb's Fine Foods on 24th Street, where he heads each morning for breakfast with several other loyal regulars.

"Herb's is like a second home to me," Johnson says in earnest.

He also enjoys stopping by Martha's Coffee, Savor Restaurant, and Noe Valley Pizza, and strolling down 24th Street to people-watch and look at the shops' window displays—the very same things he enjoyed doing when he arrived in the neighborhood so many years ago.



After a long career in the tamale business, Bob Johnson stays young by playing chess, visiting with friends, and strolling around the city's parks.  
Photo by Pamela Gerard

"It was the main shopping area in those years. [There were] families walking along with dogs on leashes," he says.

Today, the street has much the same vibe, except for one thing. So many solo dads with infants and dogs in tow is certainly a sign of the times, says Johnson.

Whether he's roaming inside or outside the neighborhood, Johnson likes to take stock of the city's architecture. He even knows the names of all the tall buildings in downtown San Francisco. That may not sound like such a surprising feat when you learn that Johnson thought nothing of walking from his family's restaurant in the Mission to the Ferry Building, and then along the Embarcadero to Fisherman's Wharf and back, while he was growing up.

"When I was a kid, I would never walk. I would always run. That's what they told me," he says.

These days, Johnson often drives around town, stopping to take a walk at Ocean Beach, Golden Gate Park, or the Cliff House. While at home, he likes to challenge himself to a game of chess on his electronic chess board. Painted models of favorite cars line the shelves in his

living room, and a framed photo of a Lamborghini hangs in his kitchen.

So what's the secret to his longevity?

"I always did exercise. I ate right, and I gave up smoking when I entered the Army," he says. "I guess I have good genes."

From his corner apartment on his building's second floor, which boasts 180-degree views of the eastern

cityscape, Johnson has witnessed the surrounding neighborhood emerge from a quiet swathe of overgrown empty lots and family farms into one of the most desirable residential areas in the city. He has watched as skyscrapers appeared and eventually came to dominate the downtown skyline. He has lived in San Francisco through the 1939 World's Fair (which he attended at least three times a week for the entire year it ran), the Beat Era, the swinging '60s, the shocking murders of Harvey Milk and George Moscone, the Loma Prieta Earthquake, and most recently, the dot-com boom and bust.

San Francisco may have grown and changed over the past 100 years, but Johnson says there is one thing that has stayed the same about life in the City by the Bay.

"You can be yourself. You can do what you want to do. You're free," he says. ■

*Bob Johnson is just one of hundreds of longtime residents who are the key to preserving Noe Valley's past. In November, the Friends of Noe Valley will celebrate Noe Valley History Month by gathering to share old photographs, music, and memories. The history celebration will be held on Thursday, Nov. 9, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., at St. Philip's Parish Hall at Diamond and Elizabeth streets.*

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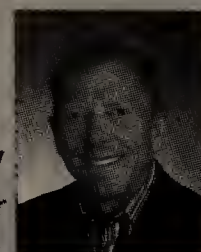
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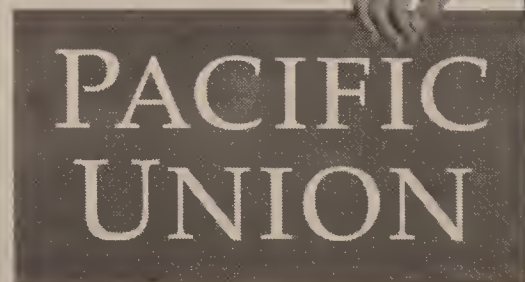


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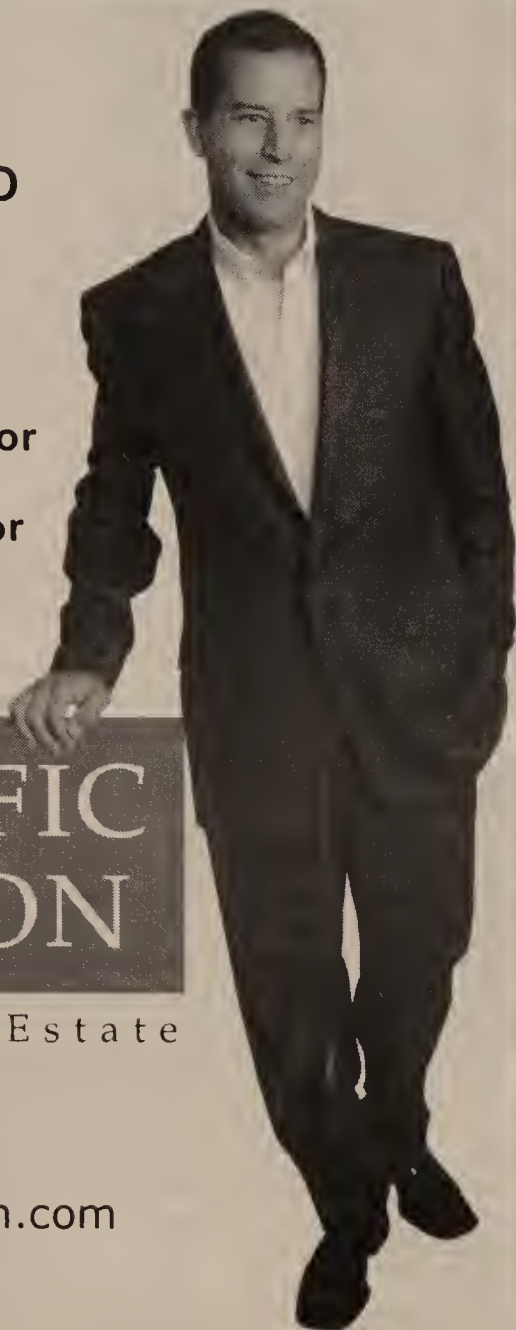


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# LOCAL GEMS

## Noe Valley Bakery

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This is definitely one of them."

Though best known for its blueberry-pecan scones, cakes, and chocolate-chip cookies, the Noe Valley Bakery also makes 15 to 20 different kinds of breads, close to 30 kinds of scones and breakfast pastries, and another 30 kinds of cookies, tarts, cakes, and desserts. "Ours is an old-fashioned American full-line bakery," says Mary Gassen, 45, Michael's wife and partner in the business.

It's not a French bakery like Tartine or the boulangeries popping up all over the city, but a bakery that warms the hearts and stomachs of adults and children alike. "Every neighborhood needs one of these," says Mary. "You're not necessarily going to drive across town for a croissant and a cup of coffee, so you need one in your neighborhood."

But *San Francisco Chronicle* writer Joel Selvin has driven across town for breakfast this Monday morning. He says, "I drive all the way from Potrero Hill to buy croissants. And my wife is a fan of their cinnamon twist."

Whether or not Selvin is an anomaly, Mary Gassen believes that people are traveling across town to pick up the bakery's signature cakes. That's because customers can custom-design their cakes first, online. "It started out with an idea of mine to have a little fun thing on our web site where you could click on it with your daughter and do her [birthday] cake," Mary explains. Now, customers can not only select their cake's base, icing, and decorations, but they can write their own message, draw a picture, or scan in a photo that will be reproduced in food coloring on edible rice paper.

"The more choices we give them to add on, the more they love it," says Mary.

Making it personal is what it's all about at this bakery. And making it easy, too. This year, the owners created a new line called Bake At Home. The bakery's refrigerated display case now offers frozen dough—for cookies, scones, and pie crusts—that customers can take home and bake themselves. Mary says she and Michael plan to add more items for the holidays, including cheese straws and other hors d'oeuvres.

Says neighborhood regular Francesca DeStefano, "I love the way they allow you to express your enthusiasm for every holiday or possible seasonal excuse to eat things."

The bakery kicked off its busiest season of the year at the end of September with Rosh Hashanah. For this holiday, the Gassens make a special round challah bread, honey cake, and prune hamantashen cookies, in addition to their usual rugelach.

Since then, Michael has rolled out the fall specialties: pumpkin cheesecake, tiny pumpkin teacakes, and of course, pumpkin cookies. "It's a thing of beauty," he says. "It's a soft cookie with golden raisins and walnuts, a little bit of spice and cinnamon. It's our number-one fall item. We'll make 15,000 between now and Christmas."

For Thanksgiving itself, the bakery makes 900 pies, 5,000 rolls, and 300 to 400 loaves of bread. "It's staggering how much we do out of this 1,500-square-foot place," Michael says. And at Christmas he makes bûche de Noël and Christmas stollen, for which he candies the fruit himself.

Michael is not a schooled baker, but an



**A Baker's Dozen:** In 12 years on 24th Street, Noe Valley Bakery owners Mary and Michael Gassen have treated their devoted clientele to every kind of pastry imaginable—from pumpkin cookies to challah bread to their own brand of "Most-est" cupcakes. *Photo by Pamela Gerard*

experienced one. He's second to last in a line of six children that his mother raised on her own in Richmond, Calif. Michael attended a private high school there, so he worked to pay tuition. As a sophomore, he started mopping floors in a bakery. By the time he graduated, he was assistant baker.

Mary is a classically schooled chef, but admits, "I can't bake my way out of a paper bag." So Michael runs the bakery, and she runs the business.

They bought the bakery in October 1994, three days before their wedding. "It was a little stressful," Michael remem-

bers. They closed the doors a week before Christmas, and "the neighborhood just about had a collective heart attack, but we had to clean and remodel because it was a nightmare in here."

They knocked out the front wall that separated the front of the store from the kitchen, so that customers could see the bakers at work. And they cleaned like nobody's business. They bought new equipment and supplies and opened in February 1995.

Prior to their ownership, a bakery had been in operation at that location since 1908. For many years it operated as

Plate's Bakery, named for owners Henry and Dora Plate. In 1967, the business passed to German immigrants Erich and Marianne Eberle. The Eberles still own the building today.

When the Gassens took over, they also launched a wholesale operation. They had a 6,000-square-foot production facility off Bayshore Boulevard, 100 employees, four to five delivery trucks, and a storefront in Albany. But business didn't go as well as they'd hoped. In 2004, they decided to quit the wholesale business entirely and operate solely as a small bakery with 25 employees.

"That was the hardest decision of our entire lives," Mary says. "Thank God we got out of that," Michael adds. "That was insane." The only place they sell their baked goods outside of Noe Valley now is the Ferry Plaza Farmers Market on Saturdays.

Lately, business is good and life is easier. For the first time since they started, the Gassens took off 30 days in a row this summer. They also are both working part-time, generally speaking. Most days, Michael comes in at 8, not 4, and he often plays golf on Thursdays. Mary works at home in Mill Valley as mother to their 9-year-old daughter, Anna Maria, and 7-year-old son, Jack.

Don't be fooled into thinking they're slacking off, however. "My philosophy on running a business is to keep it fresh and interesting," says Mary. One way she and her husband do that is by rolling out new items at the bakery. Have you noticed their Most-est cupcakes and their NoeOs (like Oreos)? Also, in addition to new holiday hors d'oeuvres for Bake At Home, look for whole-grain bread and *pain demi* in the coming months, she says.

The couple are entrepreneurs at heart, Michael says, so they're always looking for ways to continue having fun. And they've got an idea they can't resist. They plan to open an old-fashioned sweet shop, rich with retro candies, toys, comic books, and a fountain. We city dwellers will have to cross the Golden Gate for this treat, though, because they plan to open it in Mill Valley.

But do not fear the loss of a local institution. The Gassens just signed a new 14-year lease for the Noe Valley Bakery and Bread Company on 24th Street. ■

*Kate Volkman is writing a series of articles on longtime businesses in Noe Valley. She also helps families and companies record and preserve their history.*



Erich and Marianne Eberle still own the building, but they once operated the family bakery at 4073 24th Street—for more than 25 years, in fact. Here, they show off a drawing of the old Plate's Bakery, named for founding owners Henry and Dora Plate. *Photo by Pamela Gerard*



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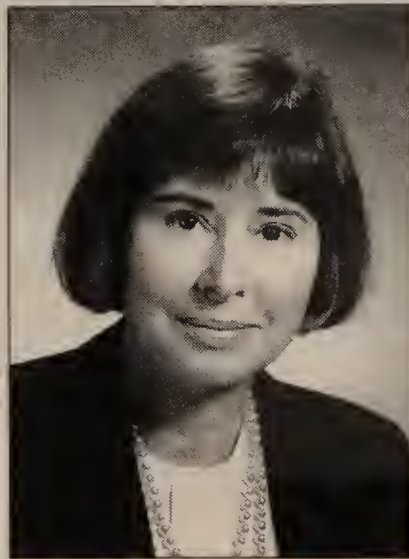
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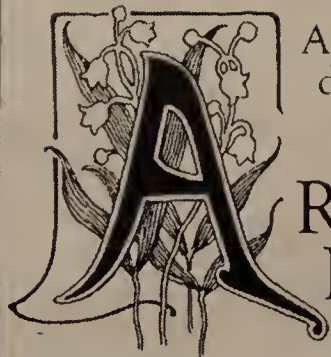
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## The Cost of Living in Noe

### Home Sellers Start Settling for Less

By Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley homebuyers took advantage of a retreating housing market to purchase real estate at less than full price in September—the first time that has happened in years.

Ten single-family houses closed escrow during the first month of fall, according to Zephyr Real Estate, which provides monthly sales data to the *Voice*. That compared with 15 sales in August and 6 transactions in September of 2005.

Home shoppers paid an average of 99 percent of the asking price—a far cry from the 115 percent they ponied up a year ago.

Picky buyers also took longer to close the deal. The average buyer in September closed escrow in 45 days, compared to 40

days in August and 41 days a year ago.

Randall Kostick, Zephyr's general sales manager, said two homes in particular were responsible for the reduction in the average sales price and the lengthier sales period.

Kostick said one home in the \$2 million range sold for 5 percent below the asking price and was on the market for 97 days. And buyers closed escrow on a \$1.1 million home, after 87 days on the market, for 14 percent below its initial price tag.

The lower sales figures and long waits were examples of "both sellers and realtors not taking into account that the market is not what it was a year ago," Kostick said. "If you overprice your home or don't price it correctly, it just sits there."

The most expensive home sold in September was in the 500 block of Eureka Street, between 22nd and 23rd streets. Buyers paid \$2.3 million for the three-bedroom, 3½-bath home with 2,700 square feet of living space.

Five condominiums changed hands during September, compared with 12 in August and 5 in September a year earlier.

The costliest, at \$1,225,000, was a three-bedroom, 2½-bath, 2,000-square-foot unit in the 500 block of 29th Street, between Noe and Castro streets. ■

#### A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents\*\*

Type of Unit	Number in Sample	Range of Rents October 2006	Average October 2006	Average A Year Ago
Studio	5	\$ 950 – \$1,425	\$1,200 / mo.	\$1,082 / mo.
1-bedroom	4	\$1,400 – \$1,900	\$1,649 / mo.	\$1,692 / mo.
2-bedroom	17	\$2,150 – \$3,200	\$2,605 / mo.	\$2,213 / mo.
3-bedroom	4	\$2,700 – \$3,700	\$3,319 / mo.	\$3,269 / mo.
4+-bedroom	2	\$6,000 – \$6,000	\$6,000 / mo.	—

\*\* Survey based on a sample of 32 Noe Valley listings appearing on *Craigslist.com* from Oct. 13 to 22, 2006. NVV 11/06



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#### Noe Valley Home Sales\*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
<b>Single-family homes</b>						
Sept. 2006	10	\$947,000	\$2,311,000	\$1,378,900	45	99%
Aug. 2006	15	\$657,000	\$2,800,000	\$1,597,000	40	102%
Sept. 2005	6	\$825,000	\$1,325,000	\$1,103,501	41	115%
<b>Condominiums</b>						
Sept. 2006	5	\$615,000	\$1,225,000	\$825,600	37	102%
Aug. 2006	12	\$635,000	\$1,200,000	\$866,258	44	103%
Sept. 2005	6	\$750,000	\$1,179,000	\$924,167	15	111%
<b>2- to 4-unit buildings</b>						
Sept. 2006	2	\$1,070,000	\$1,150,000	\$1,110,000	35	106%
Aug. 2006	7	\$865,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,401,143	52	105%
Sept. 2005	2	\$1,100,000	\$1,200,007	\$1,150,004	23	119%
<b>5+ unit buildings</b>						
Sept. 2006	1	\$2,350,000	\$2,350,000	\$2,350,000	27	94%
Aug. 2006	1	\$1,530,000	\$1,530,000	\$1,530,000	84	97%
Sept. 2005	0	—	—	—	—	—

\* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. In this survey, Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate ([www.zephyrsf.com](http://www.zephyrsf.com)) for supplying the sales data. NVV 11/06

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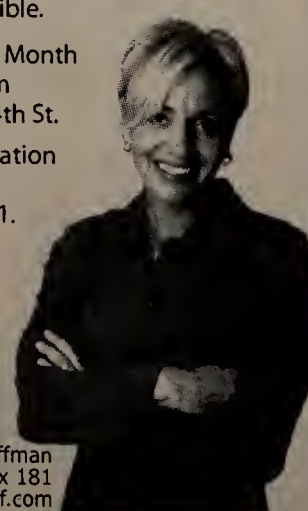
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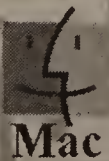
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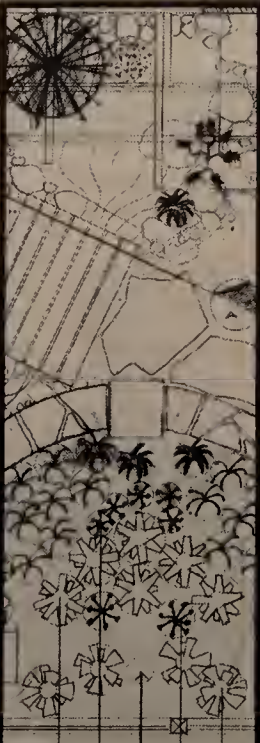
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# POLICE BEAT

*Police Beat is a review of crime incidents in Noe Valley occurring in the most recent month for which we have statistics. The area covered is bordered by Grand View, 21st, Fair Oaks, and 30th streets. The September 2006 crime information was culled from police newsletters and incident reports filed by both Mission and Ingleside Police Stations.*

## Rise in Vandalism

By Erin O'Briant

Narcotics incidents dropped considerably during the month of September after a banner month for drug-related arrests in August. Cases of larceny and theft decreased slightly, while vehicle thefts and break-ins continued to trouble local car owners. Armed robberies continued in the neighborhood throughout September, and a local worker was held at gunpoint in a Noe Valley coffee shop in early October (*see story at right*). Vandalism incidents nearly doubled from August, up to 12 incidents reported in September.

Vandals struck in several parts of Noe Valley. One or more suspects vandalized vehicles on Monday, Sept. 11, on 24th Street between Sanchez and Noe streets. Suspects also vandalized vehicles at Sanchez and 25th streets on Saturday, Sept. 16, and at Noe and Jersey streets on Tuesday, Sept. 19. At 24th and Church streets, a vandalism incident reported Saturday, Sept. 23, included broken windows. A graffiti incident was reported the same day at 30th and Castro streets.

A bit of good news was that officers on patrol in Noe Valley stopped one would-be vandal in his tracks. Two police officers spotted the suspect peering into vehicles in the 1900 block of Diamond Street on Tuesday, Sept. 26, at about 5:30 a.m. They questioned him and found he had multiple felony warrants for burglary, possession of burglar tools, and narcotics paraphernalia. The man was arrested.

### Other Interesting Arrests

Only two drug-related incidents happened in September. In one case, a person was arrested for possession of crack cocaine and possession of narcotics paraphernalia. In another, a person from outside the neighborhood was stopped in the

## Armed Incidents Put Residents on High Alert

By Erin O'Briant

An employee of the Last Laugh Coffee House at Dolores and Valley streets was closing up, as usual, at about 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 4, when two gunmen took him by surprise.

"There were two African-American men wearing hoodies," says Bill Schwartz, who co-owns the coffee shop with his wife, Kristen. "They had [the employee] go to the ground face down, and they asked him where the money was. He told them and they took the money. Then they had him crawl to the bathroom and count to 50."

Schwartz declined to reveal his employee's name, but said the suspects made off with about \$1,200. The employee later told Schwartz that the gun the men used might have been a Colt revolver. Schwartz suspects the men may have scoped out his establishment in advance.

"The police searched for prints and couldn't get anything off the area," Schwartz continued. "I didn't have video surveillance."

Schwartz and his employee aren't the only people living and working in Noe Valley who have been frightened by armed robbers in recent months. At least nine robberies were reported during the month of September, and all but two of the cases involved a knife or a gun. Fifteen burglaries of stores and residences were also reported during the month.

On Friday, Sept. 8, an attempted street robbery took place at Duncan and Sanchez streets at about 8:30 p.m. Two suspects with pocket knives attempted to rob a victim, who successfully ran away. On Thursday, Sept. 19, a man approached a male victim, held a knife to the victim's abdomen, and demanded his money at Dolores and 23rd streets. On Wednesday, Sept. 20, in the 3800 block of 26th Street, a male suspect approached another man, pulled out a gun, and demanded the victim's bag. Suspects armed with knives also preyed on victims at 23rd and Noe streets, Clipper and Church streets, and Fair Oaks and 23rd streets during September. Guns were involved in a street robbery on Cesar Chavez between Noe and Sanchez streets and in another on Noe Street between Duncan and 27th streets.

With so many armed incidents, Officer Lorraine Lombardo of the San Francisco Police Department's Mission Station suggests residents take additional safety measures.

She recommends carrying a whistle when walking at night and staying alert to possible crime. "Look ahead, and if you see anyone suspicious, cross the street," Lombardo says. "Don't confront them. Keep space around you."

Another good habit is to keep all valuables out of sight. "I've been telling women for a long time to get rid of the purses and go with the fanny packs," says Lombardo. "If you are on your way back from the laundry, don't have your coin purse in your hand. Put it away."

When at home, keep the doors locked. "People are not locking their deadbolts, and they need to do that," she says. "It's not that hard to get in a door unless it's double-locked."

Since his store was burglarized, Schwartz has a new outlook on safety. "I'm in the process of installing TV monitoring," he says. He's also planning to put automatic lights near the entrance to Last Laugh, and employees no longer close up alone. Standing at the door of his café, Schwartz keeps a close watch on cars that slow down near his corner. Ultimately, though, he and his staff are moving on. "We're all surviving," he says. "We're doing just fine."

first block of 27th Street the evening of Saturday, Sept. 9, for an equipment violation. Officers determined that the woman was on parole and had a crack

pipe in her possession. She was also uninjured; her vehicle was towed.

A woman was cited for brandishing a knife in the 2700 block of Diamond Street

on Thursday, Sept. 28, at about 7:30 a.m. Officers responded to a call about a person with a knife, and determined that, as a result of a rental dispute, the suspect had brandished a knife at an elderly woman.

Patrol officers made a carjacking arrest at 26th and Church streets on Tuesday, Sept. 12, at about 9:30 p.m. Officers saw a speeding vehicle whose description matched one that had been stolen in a carjacking. They followed, and eventually the vehicle came to a stop when the driver ran into a parked automobile. Numerous police chased the suspects by foot and brought them into custody. ■

*The Voice thanks Noe Valley Police Officer Andrew MacIvrath for his help in providing information for this month's Police Beat.*

## How to Contact the SFPD

The public is invited to attend police-community meetings held monthly at the Ingleside and Mission Police Stations. Ingleside meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane, off the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue. Mission community meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street.

Noe Valleyans who live north of Cesar Chavez Street (within the bounds of the Mission Police District) may contact Mission Station by calling 558-5400 or e-mailing [SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us](mailto:SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us). To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crimes, call Mission Station's hotline at 575-4444.

Residents and merchants in Upper Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez Street—may contact Ingleside police by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing [SFPDInglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us](mailto:SFPDInglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us). The Ingleside anonymous tip line is 587-8984.

For citywide online reporting of crimes such as vandalism, vehicle tampering, vehicle burglary, lost property, and harassing phone calls, go to [www.sfgov.org/sitel/police](http://www.sfgov.org/sitel/police).

To sign up for Ingleside Station's daily crime e-newsletter, e-mail Ingleside Capt. Paul Chignell at [Paul.Chignell@sfgov.org](mailto:Paul.Chignell@sfgov.org). To request the Mission e-newsletter, write Capt. John Goldberg at [SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us](mailto:SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us).

To report a crime in progress, call 911. To report a non-emergency event or problem, call 553-0123.

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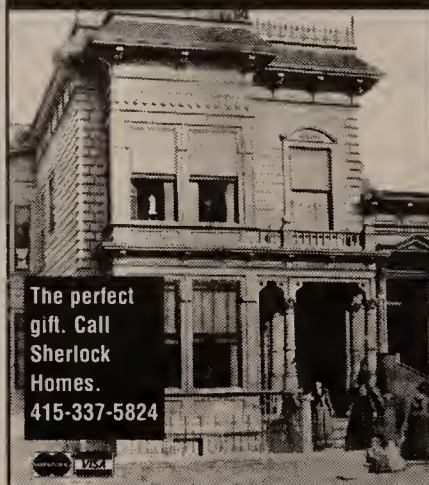
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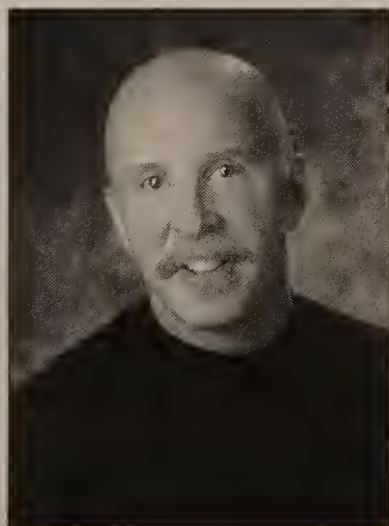
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# SHORT TAKES

## Happy 160th Birthday, Noe Valley

Ring in the neighborhood's 160th year with the Friends of Noe Valley's annual November celebration of Noe Valley History Month. According to Friends President Richard May, this year's theme is "Happy Birthday, Noe Valley!" and a fittingly festive event has been scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 9, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the St. Philip's Church Parish Hall.

The Noe Valley Bakery is donating a birthday cake for the occasion, and the Friends will serve snacks and party punch from local restaurants. Wine and water will be available for a suggested donation. Local author and historian Bill Yenne will be on hand to autograph his recent books, including one on Noe Valley. Paul Kantus, a Noe Valley archivist, will present samples from his collection of neighborhood historical photos. Long-time neighborhood residents Claire Pilcher and Eleanore Gerhardt will discuss the modern history of Noe Valley, which takes its name from José de Jesús Noe, who was granted land covering about half of present-day San Francisco in 1846.

May suggests that some party-goers may want to buy a "birthday present" for Noe Valley by making a contribution to a neighborhood need. Representatives from several organizations, including the 30th Street Senior Center, Friends of Noe Courts Park, the Library Campaign, and the Noe Valley Ministry, will be on hand to take donations or sign up volunteers. The Friends of Noe Valley will sell T-shirts as a fundraiser.

The St. Philip's Church Parish Hall is located on Diamond Street between 24th Street and Elizabeth. Parking is available in the church lot on 24th Street between Castro and Diamond streets. The parking entrance that is accessible to wheelchairs is on Elizabeth Street between Castro and Diamond streets. For information, e-mail May at [rambooks@pacbell.net](mailto:rambooks@pacbell.net).

## Wearable and Givable Art

Local jewelry maker Gretchen Schields, who's also co-creator of the PBS animated series *Sagwa: The Chinese Siamese Cat*, will be among more than 150 artists in this year's Celebration of Craftswomen Nov. 25-26 and Dec. 2-3.

"I'll have a couple of different kinds of jewelry there," says Schields, including necklaces made from Japanese and Chinese textiles, and "fabulous multiple strands of different-colored pearls that are very elaborate, very dramatic signature pieces."

The event, which is dubbed the largest holiday fine crafts retail fair in the city, will run 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. all four days, at the Herbst Pavilion at Fort Mason Center at Buchanan Street and Marina Boulevard. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the programs of the San Francisco Women's Building on 18th Street.

For more information about the fair, visit [www.celebrationofcraftswomen.org](http://www.celebrationofcraftswomen.org). To learn more about Schields' artwork, visit [www.gretchen-schields.com](http://www.gretchen-schields.com).

## Musical Musée Benefits St. Luke's Kids

This year, the annual Musée de Noel fundraiser for St. Luke's Hospital benefits some of the emergency room's youngest patients. The luncheon and fashion show, scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 15, includes a silent auction and vendor sales. The festivities begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Palace Hotel at 2 New Montgomery Street at Market Street in downtown San Francisco. Medical director of St. Luke's Emergency Department and Noe Valley resident Marc Snyder and

his band, Dr. Jazz, will provide live music.

With funds raised from the event, the St. Luke's Hospital Auxiliary is planning a new pediatric treatment room that will include an exam table in the form of a friendly animal, a cartoon-character phone, and storybook character curtains to camouflage medical equipment.

For Musée tickets and information, contact St. Luke's Hospital Volunteer Services at 641-6490.

## Binder Wraps Up the Election

David Binder, a political and public opinion analyst with more than 20 years of experience, will present a recap of the Nov. 7 California and national elections at the next meeting of the Noe Valley Democratic Club. The election analysis will begin at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street, near 23rd Street. The program is free and open to the public.

Binder has appeared as a public opinion and political analyst for the *CBS Evening News*, *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*, and *California This Week*. He has served as a political analyst for San Francisco's KPIX-TV and is a frequent commentator on San Francisco's ABC, NBC, and Fox television stations.

To find out more about the Democratic Club, call 641-5838.

## Take a Shot Against Flu

Flu season has already started, so if you've been lucky enough to avoid it thus far, now is a good time to get a flu shot. The United Way of the Bay Area is co-sponsoring flu shot clinics in and around San Francisco, many at local drugstores.

Although there is no flu vaccine event scheduled in Noe Valley during November, two nearby events are accessible to Noe Valley residents. One flu vaccine clinic will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. until noon at the Walgreen Drug Store in the Diamond Heights Shopping Center.

If the Castro is easier to get to, try visiting the Walgreen's at 498 Castro Street at 18th Street for a flu shot clinic on Tuesday, Nov. 14, from 6 to 9 p.m. The shot costs \$25 and is available to all ages. For more information about flu shot locations, times, and fees, call the United Way Helpline at 211 in San Francisco or 800-273-6222 in other Bay Area counties.

## Advocate for Abused Kids

The San Francisco chapter of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is in need of volunteers throughout the city to help abused or neglected children navigate through the foster care system. A CASA volunteer usually takes responsibility for one child and mentors him or her through the courts, visiting the child weekly, exploring his or her options, and writing recommendations for judges. The mentoring program takes 8 to 16 hours per month, and a background check and an 18-month commitment are required. For more information, call Kelley Mullin at 399-6132 or visit [www.sfcasa.org](http://www.sfcasa.org).

## Ruth Asawa Retrospective at the de Young

The first major retrospective of innovative sculptor Ruth Asawa's work begins Saturday, Nov. 18, and continues through Sunday, Jan. 28, at San Francisco's de Young Museum. The exhibition, titled *Ruth Asawa: Contours in the Air*, showcases Asawa's work from her student drawings and paintings through 52 sculptures and 44 works on paper. Fifty-minute docent tours of the Asawa exhibit take place daily at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. for the duration of the exhibit.

Asawa, a longtime Noe Valley resident, is well known for her gifts to the neighborhood, particularly the Alvarado Arts Workshop at Alvarado School, which she co-founded with art historian

## Good Sports Laughing for 20 Years

By Laura McHale Holland

One autumn evening in 1986, William Hall was making dinner at his Noe Valley home with Rebecca Stockley, who had directed Hall, an actor and co-founder of the Commedia Dell'Arte troupe I Fratelli Bologna (the Bologna Brothers), in several local plays. She told Hall she'd been doing improv work and writing stories lately. Intrigued, Hall asked what her stories were about. She asked him to guess. "Space aliens" is what popped out of his mouth. Stockley said he was right and encouraged him to guess more. While they sliced, stirred, and sautéed, Hall guessed the entire story. Then Stockley confessed she had created a framework within which Hall had improvised the tale. "I was amazed that there was a story inside of me that could come out without any sort of conscious thought," Hall recalls.

Stockley and Hall gathered a group of friends for a two-day workshop in which Stockley introduced them to the "theatresports" style of improvisation, pioneered by Keith Johnstone. It culminated in a public performance that met with raucous laughter from an enthusiastic audience.

A handful of instigators soon formed Bay Area Theatresports, now called BATS Improv. Today, the company calls the Bayfront Theater at Fort Mason home. It has a stage company as well as staff handling management, artistic direction, and education. Each year, it has a summer school intensive that attracts students from around the world.

In theatre sports, two teams of improvisers compete, and judges rate them by holding up numbers, Olympic-style. Players who say things that are too outrageous for polite society wear bags over their heads for a time. This way, "you can be spontaneous," Hall says. "If you accidentally offend the audience, you'll be absolved because you get penalized for it."

Several original members remain in BATS' comedic orbit, including Hall. He still lives in Noe Valley, as do members Rafe Chase, Regina Saisi, and Tim Orr. BATS is celebrating its 20th anniversary this month, with shows on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through Nov. 18.

The events on Nov. 4 and 5 will include guests from Seattle Theatresports/Unexpected Productions. The special 20th Anniversary Show, commemorating the first BATS performance, will be Nov. 10; the Alumni Theatresports Extravaganza will be Nov. 11. Guest competitors on Nov. 17 and 18 will be the Los Angeles Theatresports/Improv Theatre. Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door, except for the 20th Anniversary Show, which will be \$25/\$30. For more details, tickets, and directions, visit [www.improv.org](http://www.improv.org).

Sally Woodbridge in the late 1960s.

Fans of Asawa's work can learn more about her at a two-hour lecture by Daniell Cornell, curator of American Art at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. The lecture is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the museum's Koret Auditorium. Admission is \$3 for members and \$4 for non-members in addition to general admission to the museum. No reservations are needed.

The de Young is located on Tea Garden Drive in Golden Gate Park. For more information about the lecture or docent tours, call Holly Turney at 750-3638. To learn more about the de Young, visit [www.thinker.org](http://www.thinker.org) or call 863-3330.

## Strangers Author a Familiar Face

Mystery writer Mark Coggins is looking forward to his book-signing at the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 25. "They've always been very supportive of me and my books," he says. Besides, he used to live just a few blocks from the store.

Coggins' new novel, *Candy from Strangers*, has recently been published by Bleak House Books, and the signing on the 25th is one of a string of similar book events this fall. The novel's plot centers on the mysterious disappearance of a young art student who solicits money from admirers via the Internet. Private eye August Riordan, also the star sleuth in Coggins' first mystery novel, *The Immortal Game*, investigates.

Coggins, who lived on Valley Street for several years before leaving the neighborhood in 2002, says *Candy from Strangers* includes several Noe Valley-inspired scenes. "I think my old friends and neighbors...will get a kick out of seeing the people and places from Noe Valley portrayed in a novel," he notes. Part of Coggins' heart is still in Noe Valley, and so is his mail: he keeps a box at the post office on 24th Street near Castro Street.

The Mystery Bookstore is located at

4175 24th Street near Diamond Street. For information on Coggins' other signings, visit [www.iumortalgame.com](http://www.iumortalgame.com).

## Songs and Memories at Brava

Iconic singers Janis Ian and Holly Near kick off the month at Brava! For Women in the Arts, located at 2781 24th Street near Bryant Street. Ian performs on Friday, Nov. 3, at 8 p.m. and Near takes the stage at the same time the following night.

Later in the month, Brava features a performance titled *From the Bayou to the Bay: Stories of Katrina Survivors in Their Own Words* on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 11 and 12, at 8 p.m. The performance was culled from more than 20 interviews with former New Orleans residents, from age 12 to 104, who are now living in the Bay Area.

That event is free, though donations to Katrina survivors will be accepted. Tickets for the Near and Ian shows are \$24 for mezzanine seating and \$28 for the main floor. Discounts are available for seniors, students, disabled people, and neighbors.

For concert tickets, e-mail Jeanne@brava.org or call 647-2822, ext. 4, with your name, phone number, and the number of seats needed. For more information about Brava, visit [www.brava.org](http://www.brava.org).

## Please RSVP

The nonprofit Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is looking for men and women 55 and older to join its team of volunteers in San Francisco's public schools. Volunteers can work with kids in kindergarten through high school, and choose from a variety of options, including after-school tutoring. RSVP especially seeks bilingual volunteers.

RSVP San Francisco currently has 800 volunteers serving in over 100 San Francisco nonprofit organizations. To sign up, call 731-3335 or go to [www.rspsf.org](http://www.rspsf.org).

*The Short Takes are compiled and written by Erin O'Brian.*



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# STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular feature of the *Voice* profiling new shops and cafes in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce a designer clothing outlet on 24th Street and an Italian restaurant that is part of a food renaissance on Church Street.

## PESCHERIA

1708 Church Street near 29th Street  
415-647-3200

A new restaurant specializing in Italian seafood opened to great fanfare Sept. 26, in the spot formerly filled by the Greek restaurant Yianni's on Church Street.

Pescheria (pronounced "pesker-EE-ya"), which means "fish market" in Italian, is the most recent venture of chef Joseph Manzare—who also owns Globe, Zuppa, and Tres Agaves—and business partner Eddie Maiello.

Joining the pair is veteran restaurant manager Mario Nocifera, who comes to Pescheria from Restaurant Michael Mina on Union Square. Chef Manzare was out of town when we visited last month, so Nocifera offered to give the *Voice* a tour.

To evoke a Mediterranean seaside café, the owners have put in a stone floor and painted the restaurant's walls marine blue, green, and sunny yellow. They've also installed a full-service restaurant bar, which doubles as an oyster bar.

Pescheria's front dining room seats 45, but a few more patrons can dine on the back patio. "It's an urban garden," says Nocifera, with a thatched roof and small outdoor tables warmed by heat lamps. He promises that diners will be comfortable outside even on chilly days.

Nocifera also assures us we'll love the food. To perfect the menu, he says, "Joe [Manzare] traveled the entire Italian coastline. He was inspired by all the fish markets in all the little villages." That means the dishes are very fresh and simply prepared. "We let the ingredients speak for themselves."

To start, there are antipasti (\$8 to \$11) such as the steamer clams or the heirloom tomato salad. Nocifera also recommends the creamy polenta with Dungeness crab and garlic chives (\$8). "It's very light. People really enjoy it," he says.

Another signature dish is the "Bronx-Italian" baked stuffed clams sprinkled with bread crumbs (\$8). Asked what the Bronx influence might be, Nocifera laughs, "It's because Joe and Eddie are



Mark Tennison tends the raw bar at Pescheria, a new Italian seafood restaurant on Church Street. Photo by Beverly Thorp

from the Bronx."

Entrees include seared scallops with a celery root puree, fennel, and olive tapenade (\$19) and halibut baked in *cartocio*, with black salt, porcini butter, and leeks (\$19). "The way the halibut cooks in the parchment, everything just blends perfectly," says Nocifera. You can also find petrale sole, salmon, and lobster, along with a selection of pastas.

Room for dessert? Try the flourless chocolate cake or a light pear tart (both \$6).

Pescheria's wine list boasts approximately 70 varietals, including red, white, bubbly, and sweet. Bottles range from \$26 to \$100, and a dozen of those are available by the glass (\$8 to \$12).

If wine isn't your style, you can order a cocktail from the bar. "We have a really good cocktail list, all with a classical Italian twist," says Nocifera. He is proud of the Aqua Tonica Americana (Compari, sweet vermouth, and soda) and the Martini de Capri. All cocktails are \$9.

Why did they choose Church Street for their new restaurant? "We're here to take care of our neighbors," Nocifera says, with a touch of his own small-village flavor. Then he adds, "This neighborhood feels really good. We're excited to be part of the growing importance of restaurants here in Outer Noe."

Pescheria takes reservations for dinner, but only for the main dining room. That way, they can keep seats in the patio or at the bar open for hungry passersby.

The restaurant is open for dinner Tuesday through Saturday, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.; a half an hour later on Friday and Saturday.

—Heidi Anderson

## NISA

3789 24th Street near Church Street

415-920-9149

www.nisasf.com

There must be something about the little retail spot at 3789 24th Street that attracts vintage-fashion devotees. Even though Nisa, the address's newest clothing boutique for women, carries *new* clothes, the designs are inspired by vintage fashions. In July, the shop replaced Guys and Dolls, a longtime neighborhood vintage clothier, which moved to the corner of 24th and Castro streets and transformed into Vendima.

Nisa is owned by four friends, Shinobu Sering, Umay Mohammed, Ivy Chan, and Marie Biscarra. Together, they design the clothes and carry them under the Nisa label. For the fall, shoppers will find pieces like fleecy, puffy "frilly" vests in lavender or olive green (\$158), sturdy "structured" skirts made of a canvas-like material (\$88), and soft, violet wool sweaters (\$80). Most items are in the \$40 to \$200 range, and there's also a sales rack of items from the spring and summer lines with 50 percent markdowns.

Vintage fans may recall that Guys and Dolls had a funky leopard-print carpet. Nisa's owners have replaced that with wood floors, painted the walls a warm, creamy white, and put in two dressing areas and fixtures. The effect brings light and airiness to the small space.

Biscarra says she and her partners feel lucky to have scored the Noe Valley location. "It's close to our main office on 19th and Guerrero, so it's really convenient for us," says Biscarra, explaining that she and her partners still work on their design creations there.

"Nisa is primarily a wholesale business," she says. "We sell nationwide and internationally."

Local shops that carry their line include



Manager Lea Taloma holds one of the popular items at Nisa, a boutique offering designer clothing with a vintage flair.

Photo by Pomelo Gerord

Pixie Boutique on Grant Avenue, Girl-stuff on Polk Street, and Behind the Post Office in the Haight. Stores in cities like New York, Seattle, and Los Angeles also sell Nisa clothing.

Their customer base is primarily women ages 18 to 50, who "have a love for long-lasting, fashionable pieces." It's no surprise then that *nisa* is the Arabic word for woman.

Nisa is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

—Olivia Boler



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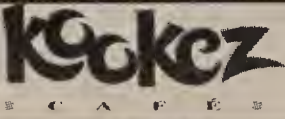
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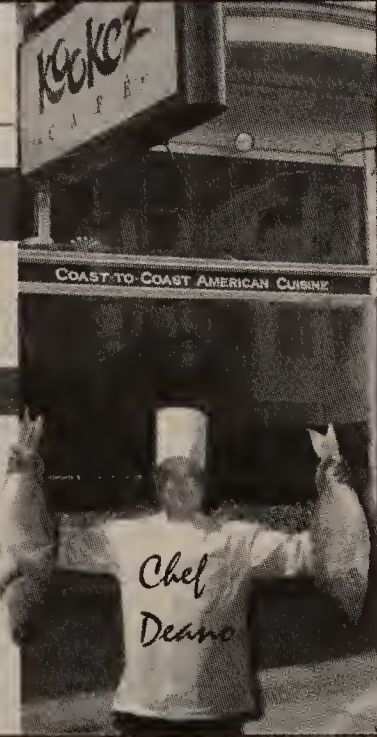
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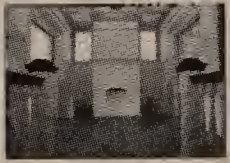
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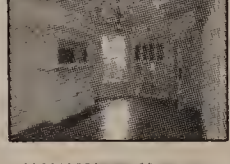
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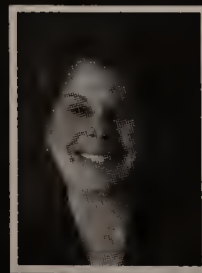


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# • NOVEMBER 2006 •

**Nov. 1:** JOHN NICHOLS discusses his new book *The Genius of Impeachment*, in a free event co-sponsored by New College and Modern Times Bookstore. 7 pm. New College Cultural Center, 766 Valencia St. 437-3425.

**Nov. 1-29:** The S.F. Library's Noe Valley BOOKMOBILE is open Mon. & Wed., 10:30 am-1 pm. 665 Elizabeth between Castro and Diamond. 557-4353.

**Nov. 1-30:** Myriad musicians play Afro-Cuban salsa, Latin funk, samba, hip-hop, and reggae nightly at the ELBO ROOM. 9 pm. 647 Valencia St. 552-7788; [www.elbo.com](http://www.elbo.com).

**Nov. 1-30:** The Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, on weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-1030.

**Nov. 1-30:** After-school ART CLASSES at Precita Eyes Mural Arts include mask, costume, and jewelry creation for kids ages 5 to 10. Tues. & Thurs., 3:30-5:30 pm. 348 Precita Ave. 285-2311.

**Nov. 1-30:** The NOE STROLLS "playgroup on wheels" departs Holey Bagel on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 am. 3872 24th St. [www.noestrolls.com](http://www.noestrolls.com).

**Nov. 1-30:** Chris Sequeira leads classes in TAI CHI. Mon. & Tues., 6 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. For the location of 10:15 am Wed. & Fri. classes, call 773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

**Nov. 1-30:** HOMEWORK HELP for kids in grades K-7 is offered by the Mission Library. Tues., Wed. & Thurs., 4-6 pm. 300 Bartlett St. 557-4277; [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

**Nov. 2:** The S.F. DAY OF THE DEAD procession through the Mission begins at 7 pm from 24th and Bryant; altars will be on display at Galleria de la Raza/Studio 24, 2857 24th St. 595-5558; [www.dayofthedeadsf.org](http://www.dayofthedeadsf.org).

**Nov. 2, 9, 16 & 30:** BILINGUAL LAPSITS for babies and toddlers begin at 11 am, and STORY TIME for preschoolers starts at 10:10 am. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. 557-4277; [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

**Nov. 2-4, 9-11 & 16-18:** AtmosTheatre performs two plays by JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY, with optional hair-washing at intermission. 8:30 pm. Every 6 Weeks Hair Salon, 323 Noe St. 626-3343; [www.atmostheatre.org](http://www.atmostheatre.org).

**Nov. 2-19:** El Teatro de la Esperanza hosts the premiere of *Tailor from Chihuahua*, by CHICANO PLAYWRIGHT Roy Conboy. Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. 2940 16th St. 240-9594; [www.collegeofcreativearts.org](http://www.collegeofcreativearts.org).



Maria Ross and Mauricio Villalobos perform in *Women of Manhattan*, one of two John Patrick Shanley plays presented by AtmosTheatre Nov. 2-18. Photo by Gina Baleria

**Nov. 3:** Taste wine and champagne from Iron Horse, Taltarni, Clover Hill, and Gruet at the second annual "Sparkle San Francisco" benefit for UNDER ONE ROOF, which funds 33 AIDS organizations. 6:30-10:30 pm. St. Regis Hotel, 125 3rd St. 503-2300; [www.underoneroof.org](http://www.underoneroof.org).

**Nov. 3:** SHANNON DAY's performance, "Signora... Your Son Is Here" benefits the Rick Middleton Rooftop Fund. 8 pm. James Lick Middle School Theater, 1220 Noe Street. 285-8295.

**Nov. 3:** Singer JANIS IAN performs a concert, "Folk Is the New Black." 8 pm. Brava Theater, 2781 24th St. 641-7657; [www.brava.org](http://www.brava.org).

**Nov. 3, 10, 17 & 24:** San Francisco FOOD ADDICTS in Recovery Anonymous meets on Fridays at 7:30 am. St. Patrick's Church, 756 Mission St. 800-600-6028; [www.foodaddicts.org](http://www.foodaddicts.org).

**Nov. 4:** The Garden for the Environment sponsors a free COMPOSTING WORKSHOP. 10 am-noon. Brooks Park Community Garden, Ramsell and Shields sts. 731-5627.

**Nov. 4:** Luisah Teish, Thomas Yu Wang, and Dr. Mark Plotkin are among the speakers at PLANTS & MAGIC, a symposium celebrating the sacred role of plants, from noon to 9 pm at the Conservatory of Flowers. Golden Gate Park. 661-1316; [www.sfbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org).

**Nov. 4:** Artsake gives a free Sennelier Oil PASTELS Workshop, led by Savoir Faire product expert Charlotte Hampton, starting at 2 p.m. 3961 24th St. 695-0506.

**Nov. 4:** LUIS ALBERTO URREA reads *The Hummingbird's Daughter* "en Español." 3-5 pm. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. 355-2800.

**Nov. 4:** "Sail Away," a gala DINNER DANCE and auction, benefits St. Paul's Church. 6 pm-midnight. Patio Español, 2850 Alemany Blvd. 648-7538; [www.stpaulsf.org](http://www.stpaulsf.org).

**Nov. 4:** An ART WITH ELDERS exhibit features works by residents of 30 long-term care facilities. Artists reception, 6:30-8:30 pm. Moscone Center, Howard between 3rd & 4th. 441-2649; [info@eldergivers.org](mailto:info@eldergivers.org).

**Nov. 4:** Singer/songwriter HOLLY NEAR performs her music in "Show Up." 8 pm. Brava Theater, 2781 24th St. 641-7657; [www.brava.org](http://www.brava.org).

**Nov. 4:** Noe Valley MUSIC SERIES presents Jeffrey Halford & The Healers, Jim Brunberg from Box Set, and Nashville songwriter Chris Donohoe. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 454-5238; [www.noevalleymusicseries.com](http://www.noevalleymusicseries.com).

**Nov. 4 & 5:** JENNIFER BERRY performs *Big Pharma*, a look at the rise of the antidepressant drug industry. Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 641-0235; [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org).

**Nov. 4 & 18:** Bring the kids to a Saturday plant and INSECT WALK in the Presidio. 9:30-11 am. Call 561-4323 for location to meet; [www.presidio.gov](http://www.presidio.gov).

**Nov. 4, 18 & 25:** Saturday WORKSHOPS at the Randall Museum include family ceramics at 10:30 am, and an art and science workshop at 1 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600; [www.randallmuseum.org](http://www.randallmuseum.org).

**Nov. 4-18:** BATS improvisational comedy celebrates its 20th anniversary with shows on three weekends. 8 pm. Bayfront Theater at Fort Mason. 474-8935; [www.improv.org](http://www.improv.org).

**Nov. 5:** Get ready for winter sports with a PILATES workshop. 10-11 am. Spring Pilates Studio, 1414 Castro Street, Suite D. 282-8850; [www.springpilates.com](http://www.springpilates.com).

**Nov. 5:** Rocket Dog Rescue will be petting needy DOGS in front of Zephyr Real Estate from noon to 4 pm. 4040 24th St. 642-4786.

**Nov. 5:** Decorate an altar, create colorful masks, and enjoy the music by Los Boleros at the Día de los Muertos FAMILY FESTIVAL, a benefit for the Randall Museum's New Toddler Treehouse. 1-5 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9681; [www.randallmuseum.org](http://www.randallmuseum.org).

**Nov. 5 & 19:** Join a docent-led free FAMILY WALK around the San Francisco Botanical Garden. 11 am. Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way. 661-1316; [www.sfbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org).

**Nov. 5-28:** The Kadampa Buddhist Temple schedules introductory BUDDHIST MEDITATION classes on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 pm, and Sundays from 10 to 11:30 am. 3324 17th St. 503-1187.

**Nov. 6:** Poets JIMMY HAMMON and JESSE MCWHALEY read from their work. 7:30 pm. Bird & Beckett Books & Records, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

**Nov. 7:** Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm on ELECTION DAY, so get out and VOTE. 554-4375.

**Nov. 7:** The Walgreen's in the Diamond Heights Shopping Center offers a FLU SHOT clinic from 9 am to noon, co-sponsored by the United Way. 5260 Diamond Heights Blvd. Call 211 for info; [www.maximflu.com](http://www.maximflu.com).

**Nov. 7:** The SPCA offers a free PET LOSS support group. 7:30-9 pm. 2500 16th St. 554-3050.

**Nov. 7, 14, 21 & 28:** The Glen Park Library hosts a FAMILY STORYTIME for preschoolers. 10:30 am. 653 Chenery Street. 557-4277.

**Nov. 7, 21 & 28:** Share songs and stories at the infant/toddler LAPSIT at 10:30 am, and the STORY TIME for preschoolers at 3:30 pm. Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616.

**Nov. 8:** STORYTELLER Patricia Bullitt explains "How My Grandmother Found a Story in a Plate." 6:30 pm. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. 557-4277; [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

**Nov. 9:** Renowned Noe Valley artist RUTH ASAWA's three-dimensional work is the subject of a lecture, "The Sculpture of Ruth Asawa." 1 pm at the de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park. 863-3330; [www.thinker.org](http://www.thinker.org).

**Nov. 9:** St. Luke's Hospital holds a VOLUNTEER orientation the second Thursday of the month. 3-5 pm. 3555 Cesar Chavez St. 641-6538.

**Nov. 9:** Happy 160th BIRTHDAY, Noe Valley! Celebrate Noe Valley History Month with the Friends of Noe Valley; cake will be served. 7:30-9 pm. St. Philip's Church Parish Hall, Diamond & Elizabeth; [rambooks@pacbell.net](mailto:rambooks@pacbell.net).

**Nov. 10:** Absolute Time Play Festival presents a STAGED READING of *The Garden of Dramore* by James McLindon. 7:30 pm. NOHspace, 2840 Mariposa Street. 401-9768.

**Nov. 10 & 11:** The Marsh Theater presents ED HOLMES in "Sub Human: True Tales from Beneath the Sea." 8 pm. 1072 Valencia St. 826-5750; [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org).

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# • CALENDAR •



**Nov. 11:** The Legion of Honor celebrates VETERANS DAY with free museum admission and an afternoon concert for all military personnel and veterans. Alma Spreckels' *Book of Gold* will be on display. 9:30 am-5 pm. Golden Gate Park. 750-3614; [www.thinker.org](http://www.thinker.org).

**Nov. 11:** "Big Deal Art Sale" is a benefit for VISUAL AID. 3-8 pm. SOMArts, 934 Brannan St. 552-1770; [www.somarts.org](http://www.somarts.org).

**Nov. 11:** Author Oan Hallford signs his books *UPPER NOE* (see this month's Last Page) and *Pelican Bay* at the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th Street. 2 pm. 282-7444.

**Nov. 11:** Clarinetist and composer BETH CUSTER & Ensemble bring jazz, classical, and pop music to the Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St., 454-5238; [www.noevalleymusicseries.com](http://www.noevalleymusicseries.com).

**Nov. 11 & 12:** Former residents of New Orleans, age 12 to 104, tell tales in "From the Bayou to the Bay: Stories of KATRINA SURVIVORS in Their Own Words." Brava Theater. 8 pm. 2781 24th St. 641-7657.

**Nov. 12:** The Ancient Art Council presents a SLICE LECTURE by geographer Gray Brechin, author of *Imperial San Francisco: Urban Power, Earthly Ruin*. 2 pm. Oe Young Museum, Golden Gate Park. 750-3686.

**Nov. 12:** Yvonne Cannon reads and signs her new book of POETRY, *When This You See*. 7 pm. Browser Books, 2195 Fillmore St. 567-8027.

**Nov. 13:** The ODD MONDAYS Series introduces East and West Coast poets Margot Farrington and Noe Valley's own Kim Shuck. 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 821-2090.

**Nov. 14:** Learn how to present a case in SMALL CLAIMS COURT at a free workshop. 6 pm. New College of California School of Law, 50 Fell St. 241-1300.

**Nov. 14:** A FLU SHOT clinic is scheduled from 6 to 9 pm at the Walgreen's on Castro at 18th Street. [www.maximflu.com](http://www.maximflu.com).

**Nov. 14, 21 & 28:** Librarians from the Noe Valley Library present LAPSITS for babies and toddlers at 10:15 am, and preschool STORY TIME at 11 am. Bethany UMC, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

**Nov. 15:** The annual Musée de Noël FUNDRAISER for St. Luke's Hospital includes a luncheon, a fashion show, and a silent auction. 10:30 am. Palace Hotel, 2 New Montgomery St. 641-6490.

**Nov. 15:** Political analyst OAVIO BINOER reviews the Nov. 7 election results at the Noe Valley Democratic Club. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 641-5838.

**Nov. 16:** Learn the basics of silkscreen POSTER-MAKING in a monthlong course. Thurs., 6 pm; Sat., 2 pm. 3543 18th St. 821-7282; [sprintcollective@gmail.com](mailto:sprintcollective@gmail.com).

**Nov. 16 & Dec. 12:** The Noe Valley Association hosts two PUBLIC FORUMS to examine long-range plans for Noe Valley's commercial corridor. 7:30 pm. St. Philip's Church Meeting Hall, 725 Diamond St. 282-9918.

**Nov. 16-18, 23-25 & 30:** Randy Rutherford performs "This May Feel a Little Funny." 8 pm. THE MARSH Studio Theater, 1072 Valencia St. 826-5750; [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org)

**Nov. 18-Jan. 28:** A retrospective of artist RUTH ASAWA's work, "Contours in the Air," is on display at the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park. 863-3330; [www.thinker.org](http://www.thinker.org).

**Nov. 18:** Find that elusive bicycle whatchamacallit at the VELO SWAP. 8 am-5 pm. Concourse Exhibition Center, 7th & Brannan; [www.sfbike.org](http://www.sfbike.org).

**Nov. 18:** The Older Women's League (OWL) sponsors a STRESS WORKSHOP for mid-life and older women by Melanie Grossman, Ph.D. 10 am-noon. Flood Building, 870 Market St. 989-4422; [www.owlsf.org](http://www.owlsf.org).

**Nov. 18:** GEOFF and DANIEL HOYLE perform "No Blood for Hoyle," an evening of new and classic skits, observations, and political comedy. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238; [noevalleymusicseries.com](http://noevalleymusicseries.com).

**Nov. 18-30:** Explore the lives of HONEY BEES at a free interactive exhibit, "Journey into the Hive." Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600; [www.randallmuseum.org](http://www.randallmuseum.org).

**Nov. 19:** Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC's Emerging Artists Concert features pianist Carlos Avila, guitarist Brian Oowdy, and flutist Jeremiah Bills from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street. 648-5236; [www.nvcm.org](http://www.nvcm.org).



The Triskela Celtic Harp Trio performs a free concert Nov. 14, at 6 pm, at the Festival of Harps at the Main Library.

**Nov. 19:** Occasional Sunday Evening MEDITATIONS features "Loving Kindness Meditation Suggestions for Beginners" at 7 pm, a silent meditation at 7:30 pm, a video of Oavid Spero's enlightenment gatherings at 8 pm, and sonic meditation "to the caressing sound of ocean waves" at 8:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.; [rabar@mindspring.com](mailto:rabar@mindspring.com).

**Nov. 25:** MYSTERY writer/former Noe Valley resident Mark Coggins signs his new novel, *Candy from Strangers*. 1 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**Nov. 25-26 & Dec. 2-3:** More than 150 ARTISTS display their fine crafts at the Celebration of Craftswomen, an event that benefits the San Francisco Women's Building. Fort Mason Center, 431-1180, ext. 15; [www.celebrationofcraftswomen.org](http://www.celebrationofcraftswomen.org).

**Nov. 26:** The Academy of Sciences' annual run in Golden Gate Park, WIL0 5K/10K race, encourages zany costumes. For an entry form call 759-2690 or visit [www.calacademy.org](http://www.calacademy.org).

**Nov. 27:** Actress JOAN CHEN introduces a free screening of *The Blood of Yingzhou District*, a documentary about children with AIDS in rural China; sushi and wine reception follows. 6 pm. The Screening Room, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission Street. 421-8707.

**Nov. 27:** Selected films from the SPIRITUAL CINEMA Series will be shown at the ODD MONDAYS series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 821-2090.

**Nov. 28:** Michelle Tea continues the RADAR SALON series with writer/fiddler/magazine editor Melody Allegra Berger and Boston-based writer and artist Sara Seiberg. 7-8:30 pm. Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616.

**Nov. 28:** Learn about San Francisco HISTORY at a lecture by John Ralston. 7 pm. Mission High Auditorium, 16th & Church. 750-9986; [www.sanfranciscohistory.org](http://www.sanfranciscohistory.org).

**Nov. 28:** Susan Griffin, Andrew Leland, and Paul Flores present the annual Jackson Phen Tanenbaum LITERARY AWARDS. 7:30 pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia St. 626-2787; [www.theintersection.org](http://www.theintersection.org).

**Nov. 29:** Get the facts about long-term CARE INSURANCE at a free seminar. 6-7:30 pm. CPMC, 2100 Webster St., #106. 923-3155; [www.cpmc.org](http://www.cpmc.org).

**Nov. 29:** The S.F. JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL screens Dalia Karpel's documentary about the beginnings of the contemporary Israeli state. 7:30 pm. The Screening Room, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. 978-2787.

**Nov. 29:** Learn about efforts to save our native species at a free lecture on FROG RESTORATION. 8 pm. CounterPulse, 1310 Mission St. 626-2060; [www.shapingsf.org](http://www.shapingsf.org).

**Nov. 30:** A gala fundraiser for UCSF AIDS HEALTH PROJECT features Will Durst and Mark Leno. 5:30-9:00 pm. UCSF Mission Bay, Robertson Auditorium, 1675 Owens St. 502-7276; [www.ucsf-ahp.org](http://www.ucsf-ahp.org).

**Nov. 30:** There will be goldfish crackers for the kids and wine for the grown-ups at PEEKABOUTIQUE's Parents Party Night. 5:30-8:30 pm. 1306 Castro St. 641-6192.

**Dec. 1-3:** The SWING OANCE Festival begins with 1920s "Frisky Frolics" and Charleston lessons on Dec. 1, at the Verdi Club, 2424 Mariposa St. Call for details and other events. 305-8242.

**Dec. 2:** Enjoy a glass of glogg while the kids meet Santa at the 23rd annual SWEDISH CHRISTMAS FAIR. 9 am-4 pm. St. Mary's, 1111 Gough St. [www.sweasanfrancisco.org](http://www.sweasanfrancisco.org).

**Dec. 3:** Thousands of items for BIKE BUFFS and pedal pushers will be for sale at Winter-fest Party 2006. 6-10:30 pm. SOMArts Gallery, Brannan & 8th sts. [www.sfbike.org](http://www.sfbike.org).

**Dec. 3:** The Winter Holiday POTTERY & CRAFT benefit sale features hundreds of unique, handcrafted items. 11 am-5 pm. Sharon Art Studio, Golden Gate Park (next to Children's Playground). 753-7005; [www.sharonartstudio.org](http://www.sharonartstudio.org).

## SEND HOLIDAY CARDS

The next *Noe Valley Voice*, our December/January issue, will fly into Noe Valley on Dec. 1. So, if you have calendar items, please send them by **Nov. 15**. E-mail [calendar@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:calendar@noevalleyvoice.com). Or you can write *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Noe Valley events take priority, but we'll try to squeeze in as many other items as possible.

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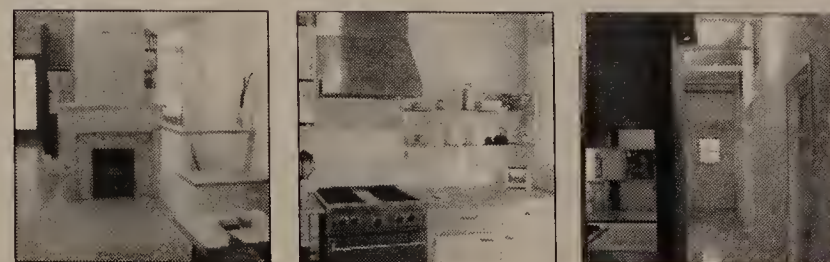
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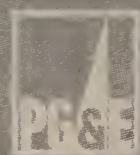
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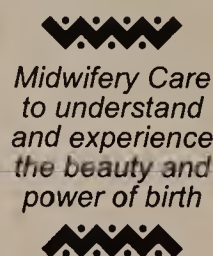
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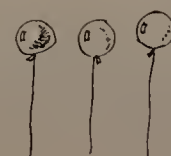


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**Song for the Sky.** A cherub weather vane points his trumpet high above Noe Street near Alvarado Street.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim



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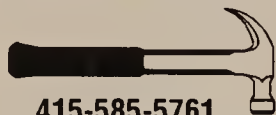
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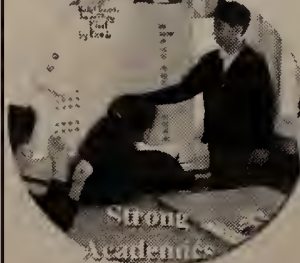
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Photo by Pamela Gerard

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**Reading for Rhetoric.** Lifelong Noe Valley resident Erica Chesley reads Mazook's latest musings while on a break from Freshman Week activities at her new home away from home, Carleton College in Minnesota.

Photo by (Mam) Suzana Seban



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# FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences  
by Florence Holub

## Autumn Memories

**M**ore than any other holiday, Thanksgiving has always been for us an extra-strength, family-sized celebration. That's because my mother- and father-in-law were married on Nov. 25, 1915. One year later to the day, their first son (my man Leo Holub) was born. Twenty-six years later to the day, their first grandchild, our son Michael, came into the world. Michael was the first grandchild in both of our families and the apple of everyone's eye.

Consequently, Thanksgiving in our family has long served as an inspiration for overindulgence of every form and fancy.

We occasionally gathered at our Noe Valley home to celebrate, but more often we congregated in the senior Holubs' house 150 miles away in the Sierra Foothills. The white colonial abode they built in the 1940s stood atop a hill overlooking the picturesque early gold-mining town of Grass Valley. Fronting the house grew the orchard that Leo's mother, "Gram," had planted herself.

Some years, there were red apples and pomegranates hanging from the bare branches when we arrived. Other years, the distant panoramic landscape was dotted with beautiful red and orange explosions of color—maple trees touched by the frost. Often the ground was frozen and made crunching sounds under our feet. Outside it was nippy, but inside it was comfortable and warm.

For days preceding the feast, Gram kept the oven busy, baking apple, pumpkin, and mince pies, plus a variety of cookies and three cakes! There was always one lavishly decorated birthday cake with Michael's name on it, another with Leo's, and a third honoring Gram and Gramp's wedding anniversary—usually a tall angel-food cake. But they were all reduced to crumbs before we traveled back to the city, where the boys attended Fairmount Elementary School.

**W**hen Michael was 8 years old, his teacher called me in for a conference, saying that the staff had been alerted to look out for children who were especially quiet, or who did not participate or make friends easily—traits she had noticed in our son. While such children posed no danger to those around them, she said, in later life they could conceivably be a danger to themselves.

Naturally, I went to a therapist she recommended, who listened while I related the family history. I told her that Michael had been a happy, healthy child with high spirits, until he came down with an illness at about 2 years of age—a traumatic period that I thought was especially relevant.

That was in 1945, when I went into the hospital to produce a playmate for Michael. Gram came to the city to watch her grandson while I was gone. Three days later when I came home from the hospital, eager to see how my son had managed without me, I was astounded to learn that Gram had inexplicably taken him to Grass Valley, away from everything familiar to him.

I was told by everyone not to worry,



ILLUSTRATION BY FLORENCE HOLUB

that Michael was enjoying the country sunshine and that there was not enough gas for the long trip home (because of fuel rationing for the war effort in Europe and Japan).

Nevertheless, I did worry, although I was kept busy with our fine new son, Jan. It was months before Gram returned with Michael. Only then did I learn the full truth, which had been kept from me in order to prevent any distress that might have inhibited my flow of milk while nursing Jan.

Michael had fallen from our living room couch and broken his collarbone shortly after I'd left for the hospital. At the same time, he'd come down with a terrible cold. Gram tried to get a doctor, but most physicians were overseas tending the troops. The few left behind were overbooked. In desperation, she bundled up our sick little boy and drove 150 miles to her personal physician, Dr. Hirsh, in Grass Valley.

The good doctor immobilized Michael's shoulder and arm, then diagnosed the "cold" as lobar pneumonia, which was usually fatal in those days. Fortunately, he prescribed sulfa, a brand new antibiotic drug that Gram administered with tender loving care and which probably saved Michael's life.

By the time Michael returned, however, he had developed an asthmatic condition that prompted us to move to a drier climate in Walnut Creek for a year. But the wheezing worsened, so we moved to Grass Valley because Gram was convinced that he was unaffected there. She was mistaken.

The asthma continued, so we called Dr. Hirsh, who suggested a series of allergy "scratch" tests, although he could promise no certain results. One of the scratches turned an angry red, revealing the troublemaker to be goose feathers! The offending source was the soft eiderdown pillow that Gram had given to her grandchild. He loved the pillow, and had it with him wherever we lived.

We moved back to San Francisco after dispatching the pillow to eiderdown heaven, and Michael outgrew his ailment. But he never regained the happy nature he'd had as a toddler.

At Fairmount, his grades were only mediocre for a child as bright as he was.

I went back to the therapist, who listened to me for three months. She finally said she could see nothing out of the ordinary, and so suggested setting up a few sessions with Leo.

Before we could make plans for that, however, I just happened to visit a friend on the other side of town who was plagued by a constantly barking dog belonging to her next-door neighbor. Our friend commented that the neighbor was a psychiatrist who told other people how to raise their children and yet was unable to discipline her own dog properly!

That was all I needed to hear. I abandoned the idea of further therapy, especially since our son had begun to make great progress under the guidance of two gifted teachers at school.

Upon graduation from the eighth grade, Michael was named valedictorian, as well as the recipient of the Student Achievement Award. We happily assumed his troubles were over, and he went on to graduate from Lowell High School, as did his brothers.

**A**ll our sons did well, bringing their parents and grandparents great joy as they changed and grew.

But one thing remained unchanged over the years—our Thanksgiving. On that day, Gram and I arose at daybreak and busied ourselves in the kitchen—plucking, cleaning, and stuffing the enormous bird. When it was finally placed in the hot oven, we attended to the peeling of many potatoes and the chopping of all the vegetables.

As the turkey approached readiness, everyone pitched in. Michael mashed the potatoes, Leo carved the turkey, and I made the gravy, while Jan kept his little brother Eric amused by feeding logs into the living room fireplace. Gramp took charge of the beverages, keeping everyone's glass full, especially his own!

Gram set a fine table with her best linens, china, and silverware, and after we took our seats, Gramp offered a toast to our continued health and happiness. It was always a warm and congenial occasion that left us with bulging tummies and full hearts.

Toward the end of one Thanksgiving in the '60s, as we sat around the center counter in the kitchen feeling warm and well fed, I made a sketch to capture the pleasant sight. In the foreground sat Michael, Eric, Leo, Gram, and Gramp, conversing. In the background through the window, Jan could be seen walking in the orchard with his little red-haired girlfriend, Marsha, who had accompanied us.

We were completely happy. Life had been good to us.

Then the conflict in Vietnam escalated, and a new anxiety took hold. As 8-year-old Eric "demonstrated" against the war—following the lead of the legions of pacifists in San Francisco—his older brothers left for duty overseas.

First Michael joined the Navy and was assigned to a floating dry dock off the island of Guam, which was devastated by a typhoon while he was there. His was a dismal, lonely duty, with nothing to do but drink coffee and smoke cigarettes.

Then Jan was inducted into the Army. He was bound for Vietnam, but thankfully, his orders were reversed as the war began to wind down. His outfit was sent to Germany instead, to a base where the Alps were within hiking distance and the joyful Oktoberfests were even closer.

Both our sons came home unharmed.

Upon his return, Michael moved into an apartment with two school friends we knew and liked. He entered San Francisco State, but the teachers went on strike, and he was unwilling to cross the picket line. When the strike ended and he finally got to class, Michael had fallen far behind, so he dropped out. Unfortunately, jobs were scarce. Then he went through an unhappy romance. Things were not going well for him.

We could see that he was having trouble, but we never dreamed how serious—not until the sad night in 1968 when we received a phone call from a police officer who had to inform us that our son had taken his own life. Michael was only 25 years of age.

There was no note.

We were all devastated, but managed to comfort and never to blame one another. We had done our best.

**W**e continued to observe our Thanksgiving holiday for as long as Gram and Gramp were alive, but more solemnly. Today their big house still stands on the hilltop, but our son Jan lives there now. We make the trip as often as we can.

In my April 1996 column, I mentioned a proposal to install a bench on the hill at Sanchez and 21st streets in honor of the late Audrey Rogers, a neighborhood activist. Later that year, Audrey's daughter, Janice Bracken, spoke before the Dolores Heights Improvement Club. She asked club members to give their approval for the bench memorial, to be located in a small landscaped area off the sidewalk on Sanchez Street.

There are a few hurdles to overcome, but if the bench is deemed acceptable (as Janice thinks it will be), Leo and I would like to dedicate a tree in our son's memory.

I would like to think of Michael sitting on an eiderdown cloud, watching the growth of the evergreen tree that was planted just for him. And to complete my vision, I imagine Gram and Gramp floating by with an enormous angel-food cake.

*Editor's Note: An Australian lilly-pilly tree was planted in the landscaped area surrounding the Audrey Rodgers Memorial Bench in the spring of 1999.*

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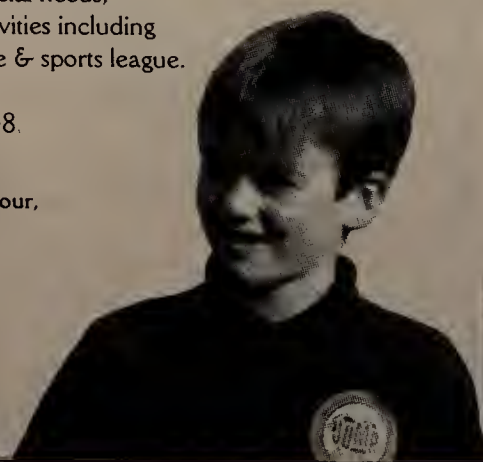
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## NINA'S NUGGETS

Vicksburg Street resident Nina Youkelson sent the Voice this vignette, culled from her 37 years as director of the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School on Sanchez Street. She says she's accumulated lots of stories, and hopes to contribute more in the future.

### Sam and the Bead

By Nina Youkelson

Sam was 3 years old, and was having a hard time adjusting to nursery school. So was his mother. She stayed with him every day, eyeing the other parents with suspicion. They would never understand Sam's essential being the way she did. They would never be able to forgive Sam his recalcitrant fits and crying jags whenever she even mentioned leaving him at school.

So she stayed with him.

It was okay with me. I had seen hundreds of mothers hovering over their 3-year-olds who were having a hard time adjusting to the big world outside their families.

One day, a bunch of kids came to me thrilled to tell me that Sam and his mom were in the bathroom and they were *both* crying. I realized that for some time I had heard a thin, subliminal wail like an ambulance siren mixed in with the ordinary happy cacophony of a day at nursery school.

The kids eagerly led me to the bathroom, where I beheld not only Sam crying but his mother as well. On Sam's index finger was a large red wooden bead. The bead was about two inches long, almost as big as the finger. Only the tip of Sam's finger was visible, and it was swollen and red, like the bead.

Sam's mother, through her tears, told me that Sam had put the bead on his finger and couldn't get it off. She couldn't get it off either, she said, even though she had used liquid soap and vegetable oil, all that was available at the school. They were in the bathroom because someone had suggested cold water, but Sam refused to put his beaded finger under the faucet. "What shall we do?" Sam's mother tearfully asked me.

I knew that a 28-year-old Sam was not going to sport the red bead on his finger as he walked down the aisle on

his wedding day. So, holding up my own index finger in a gesture of confident wisdom, I said, "I'll call the Fire Department!"

I made my way past the many kids crowding into the bathroom, and marched to the phone. I dialed the Fire Department's number, and to my aston-

ishment and delight, a human being answered. "Fire Department," he said.

"I don't know if you guys do this," I said, "but I am the director of a nursery

school, and one of our kids has a big wooden bead stuck on his finger and we can't get it off no matter what we do and he's crying and so is his mother. Do you remove beads from fingers?"

There was a silence for a few seconds, then: "Where are you?" he asked. I told him and he said, "We'll be right there."

Two minutes later, two fire engines, sirens wailing, pulled up. The children who were in the yard were delirious with joy to see the trucks, and when six firemen walked into the school in full regalia, boots clanking, black coats swinging, fire hats on their heads, the kids scrambled to follow them.

One of these huge wonderful crea-

tures asked me loudly, "Where's the little boy with the bead on his finger?"

I led them to the bathroom, where Sam and his mom were still crying. Only one fireman could fit in the bathroom, a small space now packed with kids clustered around Sam and his mother.

"I have just the thing," he said, removing from his enormous pocket a little plastic pillow filled with a colorless liquid. Pulling off a corner of the pillow, he poured the liquid into the bead and, within seconds, slipped the bead off Sam's finger.

Sam stopped crying. His mom couldn't stop saying "Thank you!" The beautiful omnipotent fireman and his buddies then clanked their way out of the school, got back in their trucks, turned on the sirens, and, waving to all the kids waving at them, drove down the street and disappeared around the corner. ■



Live Oak School is a CAIS-accredited independent K-8 day school in the Potrero Hill neighborhood of San Francisco. Lower and middle school tours for Fall 2006 admissions begin in October. Call to schedule!

For info + tour dates visit Live Oak on the web at [www.liveoaksf.org](http://www.liveoaksf.org)

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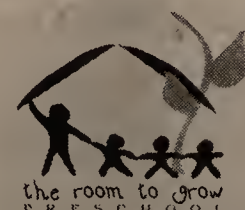
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# SCHOOL REPORT

Kids and parents are working hard to make the grade—academically, artistically, and financially—at three public schools in the neighborhood. Here's the latest from parents and volunteers at James Lick, Alvarado, and Fairmount.

## JAMES LICK

### Are We Rock Stars Yet?

Blue Bear School of Music recently sponsored two remarkable field trips for James Lick students. One Saturday in late September, a group of Richard Storbeck's music students were transported by chartered bus to Shoreline Amphitheater in Mountain View for the Download Festival, an all-day concert featuring Beck, Muse, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, and many other contemporary groups.

On Oct. 6, the entire school traveled to Golden Gate Park for the opening day of the 2006 Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival. Both trips support Blue Bear's efforts to acquaint our students with the roots, history, and cultural significance of American popular music. The new music program, less than a year old, has already been featured on radio station KFOG and on TV Channel 7.

When James Lick's rock ensemble learned they were invited to perform at the Noe Valley Harvest Festival only a few days before the event, they immediately began rehearsing after school. But the reality for our young musicians was a 9:15 a.m. sound check the next day, and then the challenge of gathering a trickle of early shoppers into a real audience. At 10 the next morning, the kids were ready!

The band broke into a thumping rhythm as lead singer Briall Dang belted out David Bowie's *Rebel, Rebel*: "You've got your mother in a whirl/She's not sure if you're a boy or a girl..." as her own proud mom and prouder grandpa—and a growing crowd—looked on approvingly.

### Girls Explore Careers in Science and Math

A group of girls from James Lick will attend the Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics conference at San Francisco State University on Nov. 4. The all-day conference is designed to nurture girls' interest in science and math courses and to encourage them to consider career options such as engineering, computer science, and physical science. The girls will participate in fun and challenging hands-on activities led by women mathematicians, scientists, and engineers who live and work in their own community. The girls will take home T-shirts and other souvenirs to remind them that studying math and science can be fun, and that it is important for them to study as much math as possible in high school. For more information, visit [www.expandingyourhorizons.org](http://www.expandingyourhorizons.org).

### Improv Group Headlines After-School Benefit

On Friday, Nov. 17, a family-appropriate evening of improvisational entertainment will be presented by 5 Speed Overdrive, an improv group featuring Joel Micucci and friends.

Proceeds will benefit the school's after-school program, Beyond the Bell, where Micucci teaches improv and acting skills. Doors open at 6:40 p.m.; the fun happens from 7 to 8 p.m. in our beautiful auditorium. Sliding-scale admission; flat fee for families.

Your donation enables us to provide five days a week of free academic support and enrichment activities for James Lick students. Students from Beyond the Bell will showcase the skills they've learned in their first eight-week session for fifth-graders at nearby elementary schools on Nov. 9.

### Merchant Alliance Rekindled

This month, after we elect a new student council, we will resume our outreach to the local community through the James Lick Merchants and Community Alliance. We'll invite members of the community, our neighbors, and local merchants to attend monthly meetings with our student council representatives to discuss school issues and their impact on the community. Contact Beyond the Bell program director Lina Hancock, or watch this space, for more information.

### Thank You, Hands On

Hands On Bay Area Volunteers helped us spruce up the schoolyard and replant the tubs in front of the school last month. PTSA member Jewli Judd, who coordinated the cleanup, says we still need to sand and paint the lower playground benches, but we don't have the right sanders for the job. Jewli has added that item to our wish list!

**Our Boys' Baseball Team** had a great team this year, finishing their season in fourth place competing against some tough teams, with a record of four wins, three losses, and one tie. Congratulations to the kids and their coaches, Steve Johnides and Tom Kroner.

### Principal's Chat and This and That

Join us for coffee and the next chat with Principal Carmelo Sgarlato on Friday, Nov. 17, at 8:30 a.m.

Our **Open House** in mid-October was attended by more than 50 prospective families who expressed interest in sending their kids to Lick. School tours continue every Thursday morning from 9 to 10 a.m. through Dec. 14. Drop in; no reservations are necessary.

The **SFUSD Public School Enrollment Fair** will take place Saturday, Nov. 18: Come to the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium and meet representatives from every public school in the city. For additional advice on selecting a school, contact Parents for Public Schools, 415-468-7077, or [www.ppsf.org](http://www.ppsf.org).

### Saturday Parking in December

For a modest donation, you can park in our lot while you shop in Noe Valley—and support our programs at the same time!

—Sue Cattoche

## SCHOOL CONTACTS

**Alvarado Elementary School**  
Gene Barresi, Principal  
625 Douglass Street at Alvarado  
415-695-5695  
[www.alvaradoschool.net](http://www.alvaradoschool.net)

**Fairmount Elementary School**  
Karling Aguilera-Fort, Principal  
65 Chenery Street at Randall  
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**James Lick Middle School**  
Carmelo Sgarlato, Principal  
1220 Noe Street at 25th Street  
415-695-5675  
School Web Site: <http://www.geocities.com/jameslickptsa/>  
PTSA Yahoo Group Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/JamesLick/>

## ALVARADO

### Kicking It at the First Annual Soccer Tournament

The crowds went wild at the First Annual Alvarado Soccer Tournament and Picnic held in Dolores Park on Sunday, Oct. 15. The many who attended were able to witness soccer's future stars in action. There were many great offensive and defensive plays as Alvarado students played side-by-side with their families for the title of Happiest Soccer Team in San Francisco. The potluck picnic, in typical Alvarado fashion, was well supplied with delicious food from the many diverse cultures represented by Alvarado families.

### More After-School Fun and Education

The fall semester of afternoon enrichment classes began in mid-October. The PTA sponsors a wide range of classes guaranteed to interest everyone, including drama, clay modeling, knitting, chess, gardening, yoga, painting, and Poco Loco drumming.

The fall classes take place after school, one afternoon each week, until Thanksgiving break. Many of the enrichment classes will perform at Alvarado's Winter Fair in early December. Many thanks to the PTA members who volunteered to organize and teach! Their hard work makes these classes possible.

### PTA Meetings Hardly Dull

Last month's PTA meeting focused on the importance of art in education and the various art programs at Alvarado. Attendees viewed a short film documentary on artist Ruth Asawa's achievements and activism. Asawa has a special place at Alvarado since she co-founded the Alvarado Arts Workshop back in 1968, when she was an Alvarado parent. Her son Paul Lanier later returned to Alvarado to teach ceramics for many years.

The current art program includes ceramics, music, visual arts, theater, and dance, and all five of the art teachers were introduced at the PTA meeting. As a special bonus, Genevieve Feeley, the dance instructor, gave the crowd a sample of her dancing abilities and then enticed a large portion of those in attendance to take an impromptu salsa lesson. The cafeteria was rocking!

The next PTA meeting, on Nov. 7, will be **Middle School Night**. Representatives from many of San Francisco's middle schools will be in attendance. This is a must-attend meeting for everyone looking to place their child in middle school within the next year or two.

### La Fiesta del Día de los Muertos

Alvarado typically celebrates the Day of the Dead by creating an Altar of the Dead on the gymnasium stage. The entire stage is decked out in the traditional Mexican fashion, and the result is impressive! Everyone is welcome to stop by and admire all the handiwork by the students and teachers.

### If I Had a Hammer

Alvarado's annual **Work Day** is just around the corner on Saturday, Nov. 4. There is plenty to do this year as a result of Alvarado's recent construction project. There are many carpentry and painting projects to complete, as well as gardening projects. Your help is needed (and appreciated), even if you can only come for a couple of hours.

Doors will open at 9 a.m., and we will be busy until 4 p.m. Child care will be provided for school-aged children on the school's upper play yard. Breakfast and lunch will also be provided.

Please bring your tools, ladders, and shop vacs, especially if you are handy

with a hammer. You can find the signup sheet in the main hall, close to the office. See you then!

—Dan Willhite

## FAIRMOUNT

### Fairmount Harvests Happy Kids

Warm weather with sunny skies greeted Fairmount's inaugural Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 21. School families gathered for a day filled with games, including the renowned obstacle course, and a multicultural feast featuring homemade pãpas prepared by parent Flor Escobar.

In addition to parading through an old-fashioned cakewalk, festival goers purchased keys, one of which would unlock a secret gourd. The lucky person with the key to the gourd received a weekend getaway at a Russian River resort. A "Hairy Spray" booth was a particular favorite of the kids, resulting in wildly streaked children cavorting about the school grounds.

A highlight of the day was a tour of Fairmount's organic garden, lovingly tended by students under the direction of parent Katie Simmons.

The festival and fall raffle, sponsored by the PTA, raised over \$11,000 to support student after-school programming and projects such as ballroom dancing for fourth- and fifth-grade students.

### Library Use Keeps Going Up

Fairmount students are hitting the library using a "Letters of the Week" approach. Each week, they are allowed to check out books whose authors' last names begin with certain letters of the alphabet. This will encourage the kids to check out different books, as well as help them get to know the library better. The students will be using about three letters a week until they roll through the entire alphabet.

All the classes are being read the picture-book selections for the California Young Reader Medal. The students will vote for their favorite book, and the votes will be submitted as a school vote. Go to [www.californiayoungreadermedal.org](http://www.californiayoungreadermedal.org) for more information. The students are also beginning a book club, where they'll read and discuss the selections for grades 3 to 5.

Also, on Nov. 3, Fairmount will hold its first literacy night. The special guest speaker will be noted children's author Jorge Argueta (*A Movie in My Pillow*).

### Short Takes

Fairmount parents have been working a new web site. Look for the newly designed site with new content and features opening soon. It's at [www.windesheimdesign.com/fairmount/index2.html](http://www.windesheimdesign.com/fairmount/index2.html).

You are welcome to visit Fairmount every Tuesday morning. Call the school to reserve a space (695-5669) or drop in to check out what's going on in our Spanish-immersion and English language classrooms.

Save the date: **El Rio Night** is coming up on Thursday, Nov. 16, 5:30 to 9 p.m. This annual salsa party, at El Rio bar on Mission Street, raises money that will enable the fourth- and fifth-grade classes to take an environmental trip to Westminister Woods. All are welcome to come and enjoy a great night out with Fairmount's teachers and parents.

—Tom Ruiz





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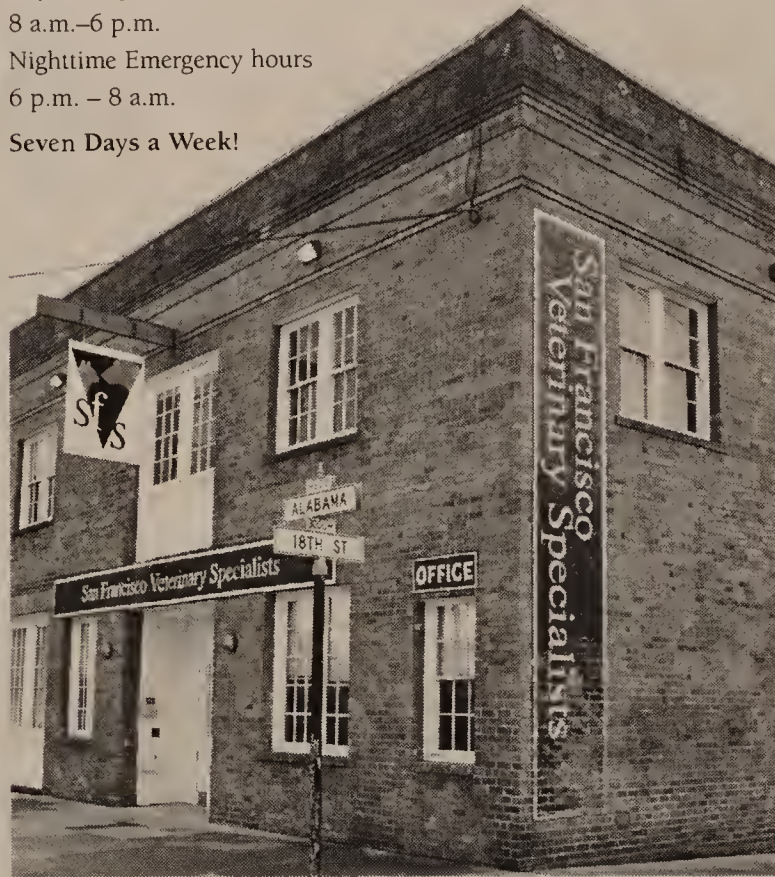
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## MORE BOOKS TO READ

This month's selection of new library books features an early memoir by Illinois Senator Barack Obama and a guide to self-actualization by Kermit the Frog. If you want to find out whether either book is currently available, go to your nearest branch or visit the San Francisco Library online at [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org). (Be prepared to put your name on the waiting list—these books are popular!) Meanwhile, the Noe Valley–Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street remains closed for seismic renovation. For information, call 557-4353.

### LIBRARY SELECTIONS

#### Children's Fiction

- Eric Carl's vibrant collages energize the story of *10 Little Rubber Ducks*, adrift at sea, who bob in different directions and meet diverse creatures. *Ages 3 to 6.*
- Say *Hi! Fly Gny* to a clever fly who proves he is eligible to enter a pet show. Tedd Arnold won a Geisel Honor for this beginning reader. *Ages 5 to 7.*
- Julia Alvarez draws on her Dominican Republic heritage to weave a tale of family and hardship in a new land, in *A Gift of Gracías: The Legend of Altagracia*. Beatriz Vidal's detailed gouache paintings illustrate this enchanting legend. *Ages 5 to 8.*
- The girl who comes in through the skylight may or may not be a real angel, but she definitely likes to be involved in the twins' activities—sometimes with chaotic results—in *The Girl with the Broken Wing* by Heather Dyer, illustrated by Peter Bailey. *Ages 8 to 10.* (Recommended by Noe Valley branch librarian Carol Small.)
- In *The Ruins of Gorlan*, Will hopes to train as a knight, but on Choosing Day he is apprenticed to a mysterious Ranger, who employs woodcraft and stealth to protect the kingdom. First in a new fantasy series by an Australian writer, John Flanagan. *Ages 9 to 12.* (Recommended by librarian Sharon Dezurick at the Glen Park Branch.)

#### Children's Non-Fiction

- Donna M. Jackson takes you behind the scenes into one of the country's leading veterinary hospitals, in *E.R. Vets: Life in an Animal Emergency Room*. Numerous color photographs show the doctors, vet techs, and grief counselors, and the patients and people they help. *Ages 10 to 14.*

—Children's annotations by Pam Ow, Children's Librarian at the Eureka Valley–Harvey Milk Library, with help from librarians Carol Small and Sharon Dezurick

#### Adult Fiction

- Mitch Albom, best-selling author of *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, addresses the idea of second chances in life in his latest book, *For One More Day*.
- *Moral Disorder*, Margaret Atwood's novel told in short stories, chronicles 60 years in the lives of a troubled Canadian family.
- *Paint It Black* is the second novel by Janet Fitch (*White Oleander*) about the harmful effects of a difficult narcissistic mother on an only child.
- Kermit the Frog shares the wisdom he's acquired over the past 50 years in *Before You Leap: A Frog's Eye View of Life's Greatest Lessons*.
- *State of Denial*, the third in journalist Bob Woodward's in-depth series on the Bush White House, focuses on the war in Iraq.
- Cary J. Griffith contrasts two stories of danger and survival in the northern Minnesota woods in *Lost in the Wild*.
- *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance* is Illinois Senator Barack Obama's first book exploring his identity as the son of a white American mother and a black African father.
- *A Good Dog: The Story of Orson, Who Changed My Life*, by Jon Katz, tells the tale of a hyperactive border collie who brought the author back in touch with nature.

—Adult annotations by Karol Barske and Sally Smith of the Voice staff

### LIBRARY EVENTS

#### Tea and Sandwiches

- On Tuesday, Nov. 28, author Michelle Tea will host an evening of literary conversation with special guests Melody Allegra Berger, editor of the teen zine *The F-Word*, and Sara Steinberg, a Boston-based writer and artist. The event will be held at the Eureka Valley Library, at 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th near Market), from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tea sandwiches will be provided.

#### Lapsits, Story Time, and More

- Come enjoy stories, songs, and fingerplays with your baby or toddler, at the Noe Valley Library's Tuesday *lapsits*, held at 10:15 a.m. on Nov. 14, 21, and 28, at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez Street (corner of Clipper). Bethany will also host *preschool story time* on the same dates in November but starting at 11 a.m. This is the read-aloud program for children ages 3 to 5.

- During November, the Mission, Glen Park, Bernal Heights, and Eureka Valley branches also offer story times and lapsits, plus a variety of reading, art, music, and lecture programs. For a complete schedule of San Francisco Public Library events, for children and adults, go to [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

- As usual, the Noe Valley *Bookmobile* will be parked at 665 Elizabeth Street near Diamond Street on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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"[A] gripping ... hard-boiled exploit... Riordan's street smarts and witty asides will make him a familiar—and welcome—figure to fans of Robert Parker's Boston PI, Spenser." —*Publishers Weekly*

"This third outing for ... Riordan proves him a worthy successor to the iconic Sam Spade... [A] volume that fits comfortably alongside those of Hammett and Chandler. Heartily recommended." —*Library Journal*

"A mystery that puts on paper the problems modern society has with a need for instant gratification and a social structure more and more based on computer screens and keyboards. Coggins makes human and real what is to many just a story in the news. And he does it with humor, skill and depth." —*Crimespree Magazine*

"I've been waiting a long time for a fresh look at the private eye story. Mark Coggins has delivered it here ... It's original, it's smart and it was good to the last page." —Michael Connelly

visit the author at [www.markcoggins.com](http://www.markcoggins.com)

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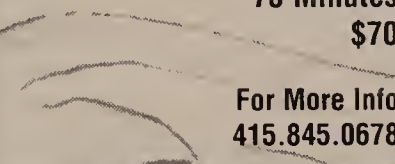

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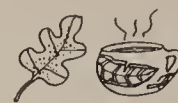
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The next *Voice* will be a double issue: the December 2006/January 2007 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before Dec. 1. **The deadline for Class Ads is Nov. 15, 2006.**

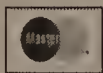
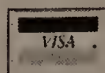
Note: The Class Ads are printed in the newspaper and then displayed for one month on our web site: [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com). (The exception is the upcoming issue; the classifieds will be displayed for two months, December and January.)

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you for your support.

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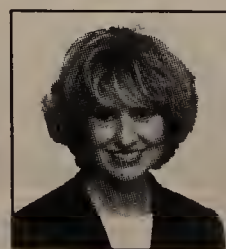
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**All Hail the Harvest of 2006.** The all-day Noe Valley Harvest Festival transformed three blocks of 24th Street into a venue for outdoor strolling and fun on Oct. 21.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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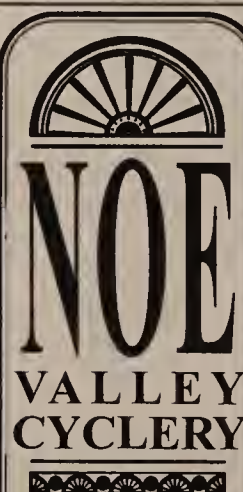
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The Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA) and the Controller's Office are looking at how to make Muni more efficient and attractive to riders. Please attend an upcoming open house to learn more about the **Transit Effectiveness Project** and provide us your thoughts.

### Transit Effectiveness Project Open Houses

Richmond District	Downtown	Bayview
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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Heir Apparent

By Mazook

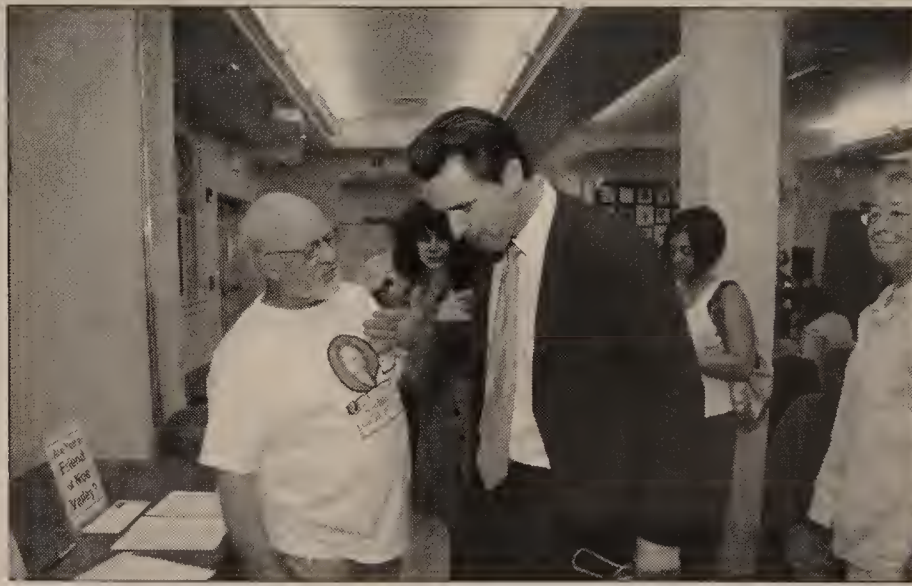
PUBLIC FORUM, PRIVATE LIFE: Mayor Gavin Newsom caused some titters at his Oct. 18 appearance before the Noe Valley Democratic Club and the Friends of Noe Valley at St. Philip's Parish Hall. Although the mayor was scheduled to appear at 6:30 that Wednesday evening (as we noted in last month's calendar), his staff gave Friends president Richard May about a week's notice that Newsom would be early (something he is not known for), arriving at 6 p.m. sharp.

"We got the word out quickly on various e-mail lists and by word of mouth," says May, "and we had somewhere around a hundred people show up at 6, which is not bad for a midweek dinner hour. A lot more showed up during the next half hour."

Mr. Mayor arrived on time. But first he strolled down 24th Street, asking kids, teens, and adults their opinions on problems in Noe Valley. Once he bounded into St. Philip's, he was ready to address all our issues—Muni, panhandlers, housing costs, Bell, the Real Food debacle, etc.

Looking spiffy in a coat and tie, Newsom did a lot of speechifying over the next hour, talking about both local and big-picture stuff, like disaster prep and health care for all. To keep him on track, Supervisor Bevan Dufty read questions on cards handed up from audience.

Thirty minutes into the show, Dufty read a question that asked for Newsom's comments on recent media stories about his hairstyle and love life. Dufty, of course, was reading this one tongue-in-cheek. He had



Mayor Gavin Newsom gets an earful from Patrick Monk and other local residents, during his Oct. 18 visit to Noe Valley.  
Photo by Beverly Tharp

just appeared on the front page of the Oct. 13 *Chronicle* with his friend Rebecca Goldfader and their newborn daughter, Sidney Maely Goldfader-Dufty (born Oct. 2). The *Chron* story came after Pete Wilson made some curious comments on his KGO Radio talk show, calling Dufty's baby, among other things, "a travesty."

But I digress. Mr. Mayor acknowledged that he was getting tired of the media's endless comments on his "gel-free hair" and the women he dates. "I didn't put gel in my hair one day, and all of a sudden it becomes a news story," Newsom joked.

Then he got serious. After explaining how passionate he was about being San Francisco's mayor, Newsom said that as a single man in his late 30s he was finding it very difficult to strike a balance between his public and private life. He confessed to all those assembled that at this point in his life the scales were tipping toward private life. "Don't be surprised if I don't run for mayor for a second term," Newsom announced.

Say what? Everyone there knew Gavin Newsom was honestly contemplating taking a break from public life.

"I've never heard that before," said Dufty after the mayor departed.

By Sunday, Matier & Ross reported they'd "sat down with the mayor Friday. He sounded off on everything from our reporting on his briefly gel-free hair to his new 20-year-old girlfriend." Surely they brought up his comments in Noe Valley, because he was quoted as being "absolutely not convinced" he would run again.

As all you *Chron* readers know, the newspaper has since had follow-up stories quoting "his chief political strategist, [Noe Valley resident] Eric Jaye," who assured M & R that Newsom's reelection campaign was "moving along rapidly."

Dufty got the mayor's point, though. "I know what he means. I am having the same difficulty in finding a balance between my public life, which I love doing and am very passionate about, and trying to have a private life, too. It really gets tough when Sidney is described by a radio talk show host as a travesty, which frankly I found shocking. But he is entitled to say what he wants, and the public's response has been very heartwarming."

About the mayor's visit, Dufty adds: "I

have received tremendous feedback from that Noe Valley meeting, and everyone liked the mayor's openness, knowledge of the issues, and self-deprecating style of humor."

By the way, baby Sidney went to her first public event, a St. Paul's festival, in mid-October. If you were there, you might have wondered why Bevan was not wearing socks. "Well, I was giving Rebecca a chance to rest, and I was changing on the run. I was quite sure I had put my black socks in my pants pocket for the change, but when I pulled them out to put on, all I got was a burp cloth!"

Afterwards, he, Sidney, and Rebecca went over to Joe's Café on 24th Street for brunch. "It was a lot of fun for us all. Rebecca and I ordered omelets and Sidney had a little breast on the side."

☎ ☎ ☎

**REAL FOODLESS:** A question to the mayor about the Real Food debacle produced little response, because little can be done. "It would be misleading to suggest that the city is in a position to buy that building," Newsom said. "But I think it is a blight, and perhaps the city attorney could do something about that."

I wouldn't be surprised if the owner, NutraCeutical Corporation, seeks a demolition permit to replace the store on the ground floor and create residential units upstairs. How could anyone be against that, right? To be real, then, it's at least three more years of a real empty storefront.

Newsom also expressed concern that so many food markets were closing around the city. With Bell Market getting a new owner, we may be one of the lucky ones.

☎ ☎ ☎

**IN GOOD TASTE:** The recent openings of Toast and Pescheria on Church Street have apparently been quite successful, and now more people are flocking to the area that's become Upper Noe's "restaurant row."

Pescheria seafood restaurant looks like

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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# RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

a hit. (For the gastronomical details, see Store Trek on page 29 of this issue.) Manager Mario Nocifera says the crowds are pouring in. As an extra enticement, Pescheria is the only restaurant on that end of Church with a full liquor license.

Toast has been open almost two months, and "the response of the neighborhood has really been remarkable," says Anise Naser, who with his brothers Kamal and Eddie operates the eatery seven days a week for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

"Before we opened, we sensed that the neighborhood was worried that the change would be bad because Hungry Joe's had a very loyal following," Anise explains. "But the response has been overwhelming, and now on a typical Saturday we are serving about 300 meals."

According to Eddie Naser, the number-one customer favorite is the corned beef hash. "We boil it for two hours with spices, and then hand-peel each strip into hash and grill it with onion," Eddie smiles.

Kamal and Eddie run Toast on the weekdays, and Anise, who has another job, works the weekends. Those of you in Glen Park know that Anise's "day job" is being a dentist at Diamond Dental in downtown Glen Park.

A couple blocks over at Incanto, head chef Chris Cosentino has recently completed a competition with Chef Mario Batali on the Food Network's "Iron Chef." The standoff was actually taped on Oct. 6, and will be aired sometime in February, according to Incanto manager Katie Mathis. "We signed a confidentiality agreement with the network, so we can't say anything about it right now."

Cosentino is known for the culinary magic he works with offal: liver and kidneys and things like that. As for Incanto's most requested dish, Mathis says that while

the menu changes daily, one of the most popular entrees is the braised pork shoulder. Cosentino was unavailable for comment because he was attending Terra Madre, an international "slow food" conference in Torino, Italy.

Meanwhile, everyone is wondering when the former Mikeytom, also at Church and Day, will be transformed into a restaurant. Neighbors report that workmen are at the site, but the permit on the window says the project has until Sept. 18, 2007.



**SHORT SHAKES:** Up on 24th Street, the consensus in the neighborhood after the Oct. 21 Noe Valley Harvest Festival is that the fair was just right this year. Although everything was great, especially the music, the best event in my opinion was the stroller obstacle course. FNV prez Richard May says finances for the event worked out (meaning it didn't go over budget) and Norine Traci-Maloney did a super job of coordinating the whole show. Encore!

The day after the fest, Isa's Salon on Castro Street closed its doors to paying customers and provided services for free to residents of a battered women's shelter. Isa's gave each woman a makeover, including a massage and facial.

Artsake, the art supplies store on 24th Street, will be giving a free Sennelier oil pastels workshop, led by Savoir-Faire product expert Charlotte Hampton, on Saturday, Nov. 4, starting at 2 p.m. The shop also offers art classes by Jim Myrick, who showed his work at the store during Open Studios in October. Artwork by local artist Caren Lorber is currently being displayed in Artsake's front window.

Speaking of windows, Eye Q Optometry on 24th near Noe had a stunning Halloween display this year, with references to the creepy movie *The Ring* and God knows what else. A little girl mannequin whose back is to the window is staring into a static-filled TV, white chairs are piled in a jumble to the ceiling, and the giant letters "THEY'RE HERE" are pasted on the glass. Yikes! They'd better have a lot of candy.

A truly gorgeous window is the one at Gallery of Jewels on 24th Street near Castro. Owners Dona Taylor and Bill Hoover report they just completed a remodel that transformed the place. "I put in handmade mosaic tiles on the floors, refinished all the cases, and put up all new walls using hand-stamped linen fabric. I also bought a beautiful antique crystal chandelier at our local Alemany flea market," says Taylor. Go take a look.

The neighborhood's most famous window is that of Harry Aleo of Twin Peaks Properties. Aleo is still mourning his prize-winning racehorse Lost in the Fog. But he has been getting hundreds of letters and condolences from all over the country. The November issue of *San Francisco* magazine features a nice article about our local icon.

Congratulations to the San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets, whose members received an award of \$8,000 from San Francisco Beautiful for their greening of the median strips crossing Cesar Chavez. The group ([www.sanjoseguerrero.com](http://www.sanjoseguerrero.com)) will be doing another planting, this time on Nov. 4, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Duncan Street near 29th. Bring gloves and a spade or shovel.

Ten free trees is what Upper Noe Neighbors president Vicki Rosen says were just approved for planting on Church from Cesar Chavez to 30th by the San Francisco Bureau of Urban Forestry. "They also gave us a list of 25 properties along Church Street which have been pre-approved by the Bureau for a tree planting," says Rosen, "so we will now write to those 25 property owners to see who will be interested in a tree planting."

If you are a property owner along Church and want to make sure you're on the list, call Rosen right away, at 285-0473.

The Friends of Noe Valley invites you to come celebrate Noe Valley's 160th birthday at St. Philip's Parish Hall from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 9. As you history buffs know, it was in 1846 that Mexico granted 4,443 acres of land to our founding father, José de Jesus Noe, who turned the valley into a cattle farm.



**SO YOU THINK YOU CAN MOBU:** Noe Valley has a new dance studio opening at the corner of Sanchez and 23rd, in the spot vacated earlier this year by Dirt Cheap Travel. "The new maple hardwood floors were finished by October's end," according to Takami Craddock, who says the studio will probably be up and running this month.

"We will call it the Mobu Dance Studio," says Craddock, whom you may know from her many years of teaching dance at the Noe Valley Ministry. She also operates a studio in the Sunset District. Now, she says, "all our programs will be transferred to our new studio, which involves about 60 dancers in our children's classes as well as all those in the adult program."

Mobu, by the way, means "dance" in Japanese, and it's also the name of Craddock's performing dance troupe, which will rehearse at the new studio.

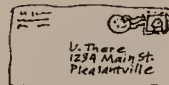
Yoga, meditation, and Pilates classes are planned for the site, and hopefully tai chi lessons will be given by local Chinese medicine man Morey Fox, who has his office down Sanchez Street near 24th.

Do any of you remember when that storefront used to be the Edison Market?



**GOVERNMENTAL HEALTH:** Before I go, I want to ask those of you who may have been freaked out after seeing the documentary *Loose Change* (mentioned in last month's Rumors) to get some perspective by going to a U.S. State Department web site, [usinfo.state.gov/media/Archive/2005/Sep/16-241996.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/media/Archive/2005/Sep/16-241996.html). It will set the record straight on many, but not all, of the issues raised by the documentary, which is about odd occurrences on 9/11/01.

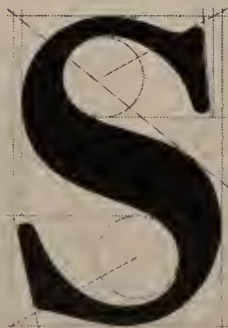
And don't forget to do your civic duty and vote on Nov. 7. That's all, folks. ■



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Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230  
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Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,  
Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100  
Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

**Church Street Business (CSB)**

Contact: Lynn Ingham, 643-5966,  
or Paula Benton, 248-0235

E-mail: [bentonp@sprynet.com](mailto:bentonp@sprynet.com)

Meetings: Third Monday, every other  
month. Location varies. Sept. 18 meeting at  
Fattoush, 1361 Church St., 6:30 p.m.

**Diamond Heights Community Association**

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,  
San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30  
p.m. Call for location.

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228

Mailing Address: 3732 21st St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; mem-  
bership semi-annually. Call for details.

**Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)**

Contact: Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn  
Martin, 826-6734; Deanna Mooney, 821-4045

Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Call for details.

**East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club**

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753

Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Irregular, call to confirm.

**Eureka Valley Promotion Association**

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137,  
San Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Third Thursday of the month  
(except December), Eureka Valley Recrea-  
tion Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362

# MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San  
Francisco, CA 94110

Meetings: Call for information. The annual  
Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day  
before Mother's Day.

**Friends of Dolores Park Playground**

Contact: Eli Merritt, 415-285-3774

E-mail: [emerr@earthlink.net](mailto:emerr@earthlink.net)

Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San  
Francisco, CA 94110

Meetings: E-mail for information on  
advocacy meetings and social events for kids

**Friends of Glen Canyon Park**

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862

Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San  
Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Call for details.

**Friends of Noe Courts Playground**

Contact: Laura Norman

E-mail: [lauranor@yahoo.com](mailto:lauranor@yahoo.com)

Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley,  
P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146

Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

**Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)**

Contact: Richard May

E-mail: [rambooks@pacbell.net](mailto:rambooks@pacbell.net)

Web site: [www.friendsofnoevalley.com](http://www.friendsofnoevalley.com)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San  
Francisco, CA 94146

Meetings: First or second Thursday of the  
month (call or e-mail to confirm), at  
St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

**Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center**

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845

Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San  
Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

**Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center**

Contact: Christina Goebel, 826-7772

E-mail: [christina\\_goebel@yahoo.com](mailto:christina_goebel@yahoo.com)

Meetings: Call or e-mail for dates and times.

**Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association**

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114,  
San Francisco, CA 94119

Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

**Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"**

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**Noe Valley Association—Community Benefit District**

Contact: Debra Niemann, [nemo@rcn.com](mailto:nemo@rcn.com)

Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage  
on 24th Street, call 559-8492.

**Noe Valley Democratic Club**

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838

Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month:  
Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.,  
7:30 p.m.

**Noe Valley Farmers' Market**

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, on 24th between  
Sanchez and Vicksburg Street

Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332

Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San  
Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,  
Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021  
Sanchez St., 6 p.m.

**Noe Valley Library Campaign**

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695.

[kkdrew@yahoo.com](mailto:kkdrew@yahoo.com); Marian Chatfield-  
Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103

Mailing Address: Friends of the  
San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Meetings: Call for information.

**Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)**  
Contacts: Diane Barrett, 647-2116, or Teresa  
Gay, 336-6304

E-mail: [info@noevalleymerchants.com](mailto:info@noevalleymerchants.com);  
register at [www.noevalleymerchants.com](http://www.noevalleymerchants.com).  
Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month.  
E-mail for location and time.

**Noe Valley Parent Network**

An e-mail resource network for parents

Contact: Mina Kenvin

E-mail: [minaken@gmail.com](mailto:minaken@gmail.com)

**Noe Valley Preparedness Committee**

Contact: Mindy Kershner, 377-3890

E-mail: [mindytower@aol.com](mailto:mindytower@aol.com)

Meetings: Call for details.

**Outer Noe Valley Merchants**

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500

Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San  
Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Call for details.

**San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets**

Contacts: Don Oshiro, 285-8188

E-mail: [contact@sanjoseguerrero.com](mailto:contact@sanjoseguerrero.com)

Web site: [www.sanjoseguerrero.com](http://www.sanjoseguerrero.com)

Meetings: See web site.

**See Jane Run Running/Walking Club**

Contact: Lori Shannon, 401-8338

Mailing Address: 3870 24th Street, San  
Francisco, CA 94114

Meetings: Sundays, 10 a.m. (Runners meet  
at See Jane Run to pick up the 5K run/walk  
route. Info? [www.SeeJaneRunSports.com](http://www.SeeJaneRunSports.com).)

**Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)**

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and  
Fair Oaks to Mission

Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary

E-mail: [lori@tail-wagging.com](mailto:lori@tail-wagging.com)

Web site: [www.tail-wagging.com](http://www.tail-wagging.com)

Meetings: E-mail for information.

**Upper Noe Neighbors**

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473

Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San  
Francisco, CA 94131

Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call  
to confirm), Upper Noe Recreation Center,  
Day and Sanchez streets, 7:30 p.m.

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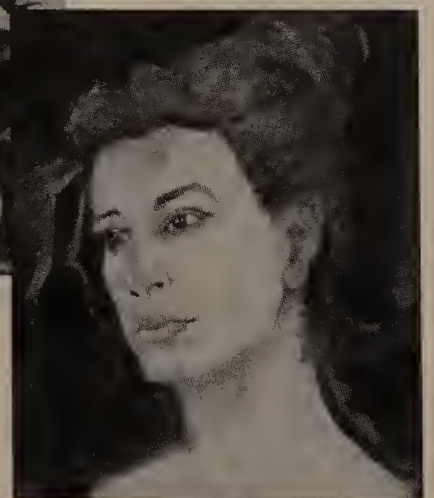
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\$1,295,000. Noe Valley. 2-Story Victorian, 3BR/2.5BA, views, frml dining w/fire-place, remdled kitchen, lush garden and patio. Susan Ring, [www.SusanRing.com](http://www.SusanRing.com).



\$1,100,000. Noe Valley. Fantastic 2 level condo. 2 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 car parking. Feels like a house. Dennis Otto, [www.dennisotto.net](http://www.dennisotto.net)



\$795,000. Noe Valley. Beautiful 2 level Victorian flat w/ 3BR, 2BA, living room with decorative fire-place, remodeled eat-in kitchen & a lovely garden. Susan Ring, [www.SusanRing.com](http://www.SusanRing.com)



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Noe Valley. Grand Victorian with 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 bathrooms. Meticulously renovated and upgraded from top to bottom. Dennis Otto, [www.dennisotto.net](http://www.dennisotto.net)



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# A Trip to the Bridge

*Continued from the Last Page*

When we had been there a long time and stood by the railing looking into the alligator pit, throwing pennies onto the backs of the alligators and crocodiles, Chickie suddenly said:

“I’m gonna throw Little Bit in there!”

He lifted Little Bit by his legs over the railing. We knew that Chickie was joking, but Little Bit didn’t. He kicked and screamed so that everybody near the pit looked at us. Me and Reynaldo smiled at Little Bit taking everything so seriously. Then he gave Chickie an unexpected kick, and Chickie let go. Little Bit fell right into the pit where all the alligators and crocodiles were. He landed on a soft dirt mound where there were a lot of ferns so the alligators didn’t notice he was there right away. Chickie got so excited that instead of being calm about Little Bit’s falling in, he jumped in right after him. I think the crocodiles and alligators noticed Chickie because they started to move around right after he landed and hugged Little Bit. Both of them screamed as loud as they could. An alligator that must have seen or heard the screaming and moving around in the ferns crawled toward them from one side. It crawled very slowly as if it knew exactly what was happening and it opened and closed its mouth. Then Reynaldo yelled:

“Watch out, Chickie and Little Bit! The alliga-

tor is coming to get you!”

They both looked over at the alligator and saw its nose pushing into the ferns where they were. I didn’t think it was a smart thing to yell out because Chickie and Little Bit hugged each other tighter and started to scream even louder. I didn’t know what to do, so I shouted and I took off my shoe and threw it at the alligator. It bounced on the alligator’s head, and the alligator stopped for a moment and looked around.

**When we had been there a long time and stood by the railing looking into the alligator pit, throwing pennies onto the backs of the alligators and crocodiles, Chickie suddenly said: “I’m gonna throw Little Bit in there!”**

By this time everybody watching yelled also. A man pushed through the people next to me and jumped down to where Little Bit and Chickie were. The alligator was getting closer all the time, and the man picked up Little Bit and handed him up and as he turned to pick up Chickie, the alligator was so close that Chickie, who had picked up my shoe which landed near him, hit the alligator on the nose. It snapped at Chickie’s foot and if the man hadn’t pulled him away he wouldn’t have had one. The man stumbled against the wall while he held Chickie and the alligator moved up. Just as the alligator was about to open his mouth and take

a bite out of the man’s leg, another man right near me wearing a suit shot the alligator with a gun three or four times. The alligator wiggled wildly and then lay still. It was dead.

The man in the pit stood up and handed Chickie to another person in the crowd and then they pulled him up. The man who shot the alligator put his pistol into a holster under his coat and when some men with uniforms came running up to him he said:

“I’m an off-duty cop. I always carry a gun.”

The man who shot the gun had two little girls with him and they were crying. Soon another man came and asked questions. He must have been the head of the aquarium because everybody yelled at him at once and he said why didn’t everybody involved come to his office. When he made that statement a big crowd moved with him. Me and Reynaldo followed him from a distance. As they were going through a big door with everybody shouting and wanting to know what to do and the little girls still crying, Chickie came back to where we were and gave me my shoe. Right before they slammed the door to the office, Little Bit slid between someone’s legs and ran to us. We all raced out the entrance of the building, down the steps, and through the paths of the park. We came to a bus stop just as it opened its doors and we jumped on. I asked the bus driver if he was going near the Golden Gate Bridge, and he said, “Two blocks from it.” I felt safe and glad that we were really going to get there. ❖



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The lower level features 3 bedrooms and two bathrooms, including the master suite with a gas fireplace, separate shower, Japanese soaking tub with air jets and access to the sunny patio and beautifully landscaped yard. Completing the lower level is the home's laundry and direct access to the garage.

Additional information @ [www.520Jersey.com](http://www.520Jersey.com)

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### Eureka Valley

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### Eureka Valley

**\$1,550,000**

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### Noe Valley

**\$1,450,000**

Contemporary, open, remodeled 3BR/2BA home w/sweeping City & Bay views, chef's kitchen, open living/dining area, family/sitting room, bonus room, view deck & rear yard, and 2-car garage.

Jeffrey Osteen 415.701.2602



### Noe Valley

**\$1,199,000**

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### Noe Valley

**\$1,099,000**

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### Noe Valley

**\$879,000**

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# THE LAST PAGE

## Upper Noe

a memoir/novel by dan hallford

With the 2006 publication of his memoir/novel *Upper Noe* (PublishAmerica), Noe Valley native Daniel Hallford brings the neighborhood to life through the eyes of a child in the 1950s. The interlinking stories follow the adventures of a group of boys, students at St. Paul's Grammar School, as they roam free through the red-rock hills of Upper Noe and the

bustling streets of downtown San Francisco. The book captures a time of innocence, a neighborhood populated by working- and middle-class families, and a rough-and-tumble spirit that many longtime residents remember with nostalgia.

Hallford, 55, now lives in Sacramento and is a retired parole agent and teacher in the prison system (his past pupils

include Charles Manson, Dan White, and Sirhan Sirhan). He is a graduate of Riordan High School and an alum of San Diego State University and U.C. Berkeley, where his draft of *Upper Noe* was awarded the Eisner Prize for Literature.

Last year, he published a mystery crime novel, *Pelican Bay*, based on a true story and inspired by his work in the prison system. He also has a

short-story collection, *Tattooed Love Dogs*, available in e-book form on [www.electronpress.com](http://www.electronpress.com).

Of *Upper Noe*, Hallford says, "I wrote it in part for my son and daughter who grew up in Sacramento, so they could get a sense of what it was like to be a kid in San Francisco. Back then, I'd tell my mom, 'I'm going to the park,' and I'd leave in the morning and meet all the other kids at Day

Street Park, and we'd play baseball and football and wander around all day and not come back home until just before dinner."

Hallford returns to Noe Valley when he can, to see friends and relatives and "to hang out," he says. "Noe Valley is a special place for me, and over the years I've been glad to see it grow up and remain as vibrant and alive as it was when I was young.... I do wish there

were more children in San Francisco, though. Is there something we can do about that?"

If you have suggestions, you can tell Hallford at a book-signing at the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th Street, on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 2 p.m. His books are also available at Cover to Cover, Phoenix Books, and Bird & Beckett Books & Records in Glen Park. —Olivia Boler

## A Trip to the Bridge

A Chapter from *Upper Noe*  
By Daniel Hallford

"I thought maybe of visiting the Golden Gate Bridge today," Reynaldo said.

I had been to the Golden Gate Bridge before but only with my parents. I thought about it for a while and I asked him how he was going to get there and he said the bus. I asked him if he knew what bus to take and he said yes and that it was easy. It sounded like a good idea to me and I decided to do it.

"Let's go," I said as I stood up.

He said to wait a minute and asked me if I had any money and I answered yes, I had money in my pocket.

"I don't know," he then said slowly, "I've got to ask my mother first."

I was surprised. It sounded as if he didn't really want to go. Then I got mad at him because it was his idea in the first place. After talking to him for a while I finally convinced him it would be all right, and we walked down toward the streetcar line.

On the way down Harper we ran into Chickie and Little Bit, who were playing out in front of their house. They asked us where we were going and we said that we were going over to the Golden Gate Bridge. They got excited and asked if they could come to. Reynaldo and I looked at each other and he said that it was okay for them to come if they had money to take the bus, which they did. I didn't mind Chickie coming; in fact, I was glad that he wanted to, but I was afraid that Little Bit would get tired or something and pee in his pants or start screaming for some little thing. I said that Little Bit couldn't come because he was too small and Little Bit started to cry. After crying for a few moments, he screamed and ran over to me and bit me in the hand. Little Bit always bit people when he was mad or frustrated. There were small teeth marks on my hand but it didn't hurt. This time Chickie told him to shut up and hit him until Little Bit fell on the ground saying that he would shut up. Then Chickie turned to us and said:

"Let him come with us. He won't bother anybody."

I still didn't want him to because I knew Little Bit. Reynaldo looked at Little Bit and looked at

me and said that he thought it would be all right. Reynaldo said that because he didn't know him as well as I did. But since Chickie wanted him to come and Reynaldo didn't mind, I had to agree. I told them to go ask their mother but Chickie just said no because he knew she wouldn't let them go even if they did ask. We walked down Harper to 30th and past the park. Someone was even playing tennis on the tennis court. Little Bit and Chickie didn't go to St. Paul's like me and Reynaldo. They went to Kate Kennedy, which was only around the block from Harper Street. When I asked them about it, they said they liked it because there were no nuns and priests there like at St. Paul's.

**We went into Leo's Market to buy food for lunch because we knew it would take all day to go there and back. We each bought small wrapped pies and cupcakes and potato chips, and Leo saw us and asked what we were up to.**

**"We're going to the bridge," we said. "Good luck!" he answered and laughed.**

We went into Leo's Market to buy food for lunch because we knew it would take all day to go there and back. Sweet Boy was sweeping the sidewalk and we left Little Bit outside to talk to him. We each bought small wrapped pies and cupcakes and potato chips, and Leo saw us and asked what we were up to.

"We're going to the bridge," we said.

"Good luck!" he answered and laughed.

Outside, Little Bit was talking to Sweet Boy. I heard him ask Sweet Boy where he got the broom and how long he had been sweeping outside Leo's Market and I realized that they had never met each other.

"Sweet Boy, this is Little Bit. Little Bit, this is Sweet Boy," I said.

"Hello!" they said to each other and shook hands.

We left and boarded the streetcar that was going downtown. We stayed on it until we got to where the cable car was. There were people all over the place and we walked into a department store, the Emporium. I remember going to the Emporium when I was younger and seeing Santa Claus and asking him for a horse, a barn, and some hay one Christmas.

After walking around in the stores, we got on

the cable car and rode it as it went up the hill past Union Square. In the square, I saw a man playing the trumpet and a few people watching him, and I saw a man talking into the microphone with nobody listening to him. Inside, the cable car was crowded and only one of us sat down: Little Bit. He was sitting on an old lady's lap who thought he was cute and shouldn't be standing. At the top of the hill, we got off because we didn't want to go back down the other side, and we got another bus that went even higher up the hill and over and down some more. We didn't know where we were, but we got off on a big street, Van Ness, and got on another bus. After we rode for a while, the bus driver announced "Golden Gate Park" and we jumped off. The bus stop was next to the park and we ran into it. Reynaldo was the fastest. He was hard to keep up with. Little Bit was the slowest, and since he carried all the lunch, me and Chickie held him by his jacket and pulled him along. We ran until we got tired and then lay on a big lawn. Soon a policeman on a horse came by, and we said hello to him and asked him if we could ride on his horse but he didn't answer so we just followed him. After following the horse for a while, we saw it take a crap on the street right in front of us. We decided we didn't want to follow it anymore and ran up a trail. Next to the trail was a hill and we found a little path under the bushes and we found another trail and ran down it. All this time, Little Bit complained that he was hungry, even though nobody else was. We ignored him. He started to cry a little so as we got near a group of buildings we stopped and had lunch. We sat down and took the food from Little Bit and evenly divided it. I noticed a lot of people were going in and out of the nearby buildings.

After lunch, which went very quickly, we walked over to one building and stood in line and paid the girl at the counter to get in. Reynaldo said it was the aquarium where there was a lot of fish. He had been there before. Looking around I realized I had been there before too, with my parents. Chickie and Little Bit said they had never been there before in their lives so we showed them around. We saw all the fish. We showed them the gigantic bear that had once lived in the mountains and we saw birds and deer that lived in the mountains also. We saw the talking fish and dolphin and the different-colored snakes.

Continued on Page 62